



Calm Lithuania awaits fate

Landsbergis plea to West for support

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Peter Stothard, Washington, and Michael Knappe

AS MOSCOW'S deadline for Lithuania to repeal its new laws or face economic sanctions expired yesterday President Landsbergis, head of the rebel republic, appealed to Britain, the European Community and the United Nations for help.

His plea came as the US Government was preparing new options for retaliation against Moscow if the threatened economic blockade goes ahead.

When President Bush returns to the White House this morning after his meeting with Mrs Thatcher, he will be given a list of suggestions by top officials at the Departments of State and Defence, the National Security Council and the CIA.

In the only official Soviet comment on the dispute yesterday, Pravda called for a balanced handling of the crisis in both Washington and Moscow, noting that it could affect overall relations in the run-up to the summit. The Communist Party paper warned other countries not to interfere.

Lithuanians, meanwhile, celebrated Easter with an ostensible lack of concern at the passing of Moscow's deadline. Members of the Lithuanian government had announced that they would not let Soviet pressure interfere with the holiday. Churches in the predominantly Roman Catholic republic were packed.

INSIDE

Curriculum may be eased

More relaxation of the national curriculum is likely now that Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made it clear she believes reforms have gone too far. She said there must be scope for each teacher to use her own methods and experience.

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, said that changes should be made to the "flawed and ill thought out legislation". Page 3

Hindus flee

Tens of thousands of Hindus have fled from the Kashmir Valley as the secessionist uprising there turns into a battle between the powerful forces of Hindu and Muslim fundamentalism. Page 10

Tory peer dies

Lord Bruce-Gardyne, a former Conservative Treasury minister and fierce advocate of monetarism, has died after a long illness. He was 60. Obituary, page 14

Savings fall

National Savings dropped by £271 million last month, reducing investments in the Department of Savings by £1.6 billion to £35.3 billion in the year. Page 23

Anfield sorrow

More than 15,000 fans stood in silence at Liverpool's Anfield football ground yesterday marking the Hillsborough disaster a year ago. Page 3

Bank steps in

The Bank of England made an unusual public statement to help maintain confidence in British & Commonwealth, the financial services group, which has run into problems with a computer leasing business and may require assets to be written off. Page 23

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Mr Kaufman: To ask for a government statement

Battle lines drawn for 'super gun' great debate

By David Sapsted

THE battle lines were drawn yesterday for the great debate over whether the eight sections of steel pipe seized at Teesside, Middlesbrough, were for a satellite-launching gun or simply part of a consignment for a petro-chemical plant in Iraq.

In one corner was HM Customs and Excise, backed by Ministry of Defence experts, insistent that the consignment was intended for military use. In the other was the Sheffield manufacturer of the piping, with covert backing from Department of Trade and Industry officials, equally determined to dismiss the episode as a farce.

Somewhere in the middle was a referee in the shape of the Prime Minister ("It is a pretty good rule first to find the facts before you make any further comment") while the spectators,

the Labour Party, voiced their determination to find out exactly what is probably what. Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Foreign Secretary, who said the Government must come clean on the issue, will demand a statement from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, when Parliament resumes this week.

Continuing off-stage was the battle of the leaks, the latest of which was one from Customs suggesting that the "gun" was not a gun at all but something to put rockets or spy satellites into orbit.

That appeared to be a direct response to an earlier weekend leak, which the DTI yesterday strongly denied making, dismissing the consignment of eight steel tubes as "probably only a pipe".

Customs believe departmental officials are making such noises to avoid getting egg on their faces for approving the export order in the first place.

However, weighing in yesterday on

the side of the foul-up were the makers, Forgemasters, of Sheffield. A spokesman insisted that the firm had done no more than supply steel tubes for a "petro-chemicals application".

Mr Tony Peck said: "Nobody seems to have taken on board the fact that those eight pieces do not join up to form one piece. They are random selections of tubes from a consignment of 26 which, added together, measure 156 metres. They cannot join them together and they know it."

Meanwhile, Customs investigators are looking at links between the cylinders and research carried out by the Canadian weapons scientist Dr Gerald Bull, shot dead in Brussels last month. Customs have said that his company, the Space Research Corporation, was involved in negotiations to buy the pipes.

Please for unity, page 11



Happy landing: A cheerful Mr Nelson Mandela arriving yesterday in London

All quiet under April showers

By David Sapsted

AN APRIL weather cocktail of sun showers and a keen wind produced an Easter Sunday of deserted motorways, quiet resorts and glut ice-cream salesmen.

The President will be cautious about any more than symbolic retaliation. But a significant body of inside opinion believes that Mr Bush is in a position to play tough with Mr Gorbachov if he chooses to do so.

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ECONOMIC threat, page 9
Gorbachov's advice, page 12
Moscow's Easter, page 22

Richards awaits verdict as West Indies race on

From Alan Lee, Antigua

WEST Indies maintained control of the decisive final Test Match against England in Antigua yesterday, while their captain, Vivian Richards, awaited the official verdict on possible disciplinary proceedings against him.

Richards is the subject of an inquiry by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control after absenting himself from the field on Saturday morning to pursue a dispute with an English journalist. No decision on his future is expected until the match ends.

Although he made only one run himself, as three wickets

Match report, page 34

Weather forecasts, page 22

Early Nato summit poses problem

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

PLANS nurtured by Mrs Thatcher and President Bush at their Bermuda talks for an early Nato summit to resolve the future of short-range nuclear weapons and to discuss the future architecture of the 16-nation alliance are running into difficulties.

It was initially hoped that

Mr Bush receives President Gorbachov in Washington at

the Nato foreign ministers' meeting at Turnberry, Scotland, early in June could have been turned into a full Nato summit. But the administrative problems proved too difficult to overcome in such a short period and there is some difficulty in accommodating the meeting in a crowded schedule this summer.

Jack Cunningham, his campaign director, and Mr Bryan Gould, environment spokesman, will launch a local government election campaign using the Government's strategy to persuade former Tories that they have been sold out by the party which claims to represent their interests.

The theme of recent party political broadcasts will be developed to present Labour as "the party that can" and the Conservatives as "the party that can't".

Ministers are planning to respond swiftly by attacking Labour's record of high-spending both in national and local administrations and by criticizing the party's delay in dissociating itself from the Militant-linked All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

MEANWHILE, tourists to Sandringham House found the gates locked yesterday. It will not open until April 29 because of preparations for a week's holiday by the Prince of Wales there, which begins tomorrow.

On Wednesday Mr Neil Kinnock, together with Dr

Poll details, page 6

Kinnock attack as Tories slide

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Labour Party is planning to inject a new bitterness into the political debate this week by launching a local government election campaign using the Government's strategy to persuade former Tories that they have been sold out by the party which claims to represent their interests.

The three-month aggregate poll, one of the most comprehensive tests on the political scene, confirms that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is the most unpopular Prime Minister.

If the latest opinion polls are reflected in the voting on May 3, the Conservative Party could be reduced to its lowest level of council representation in living memory.

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Poll details, page 6

Surprise FO guests attend reception for Mandela

By Tom Giles and Michael Knappe

TWO Foreign Office officials unexpectedly attended a reception for Mr Nelson Mandela, hosted by Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General last night, marking the African National Congress leader's first, and almost certainly only, contact with the Government during his two-day London visit.

Mr Roger Tomkis, a deputy Under-Secretary and Mr Richard Bates, the head of the Southern Africa department, were invited by Mr Ramphal, along with a wide range of people who, according to a Commonwealth source, were "committed to the anti-apartheid cause".

He continued: "Once we discovered that malpractices were going on... we took immediate steps and made sure that these things do not happen again." The head of the EC delegation, Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, said later he believed the ANC had dealt with the torture effectively.

Despite substantial security at Heathrow, the 71-year-old ANC leader left swiftly with his party for his hotel in central London looking slightly jaded after his 14-hour flight.

Mr Mandela had a private meeting with Archbishop Huddleston before addressing a meeting of 250 delegates from international anti-apartheid groups which included Mr Bernie Grant, the Labour MP, and the Rev Jesse Jackson, the US politician.

Only Daily Mirror journalists were allowed unhindered access to Mr Mandela, a concession granted after the financial backing provided towards the concert visit by Mirror Group Newspapers and its proprietor, Mr Robert Maxwell.

Leading article, page 13

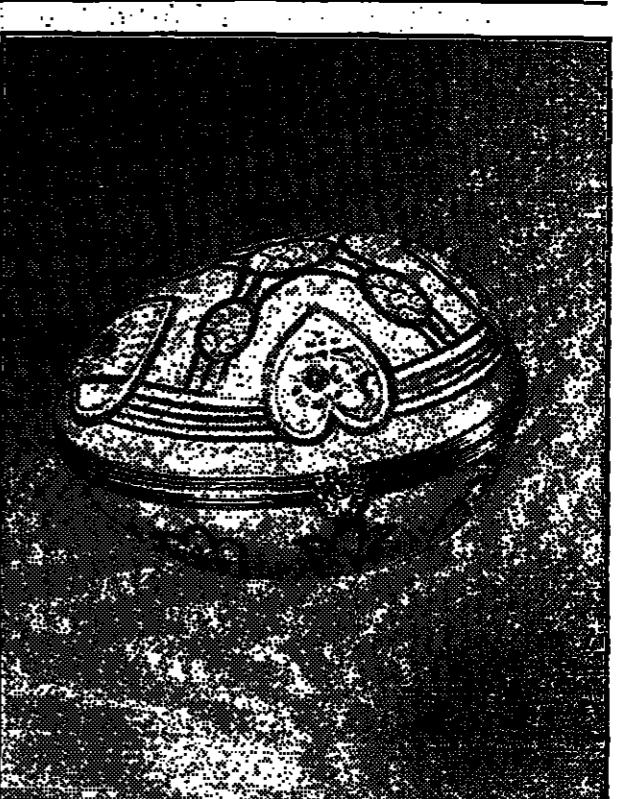
them, the disposition of troop cuts and the scope for further cutbacks in nuclear armaments.

Officials said that the Bush administration had "cleared their minds" about where the two administrations wanted to go on the

Continued on page 22, col 1

Thatcher's luck, page 8

Leading article, page 13



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متحف الأصل

Ford gives its staff £300 vouchers to boost car sales

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

NEARLY 40,000 Ford workers have been given a £300 voucher towards buying one of the company's cars as the battle for sales in the declining British market intensifies.

The vouchers, together with special employee discounts, mean the workforce, employed in 21 plants throughout Britain, could save up to £2,000 on a Ford Escort straight from the factory.

The move comes as Ford is struggling to rebuild its lead as Britain's biggest car company, but facing a market depressed

by high interest rates, rising mortgage repayments and poll tax charges.

Sales of new cars are down by almost 8 per cent this year but Ford's leadership has slipped from a 27.6 per cent market share in the first quarter of 1989 to 24 per cent so far in 1990.

The company is under pressure, particularly from Vauxhall, whose Cavalier has moved ahead of the Sierra to first place in the sales league table for the first quarter. Vauxhall's market share has

also increased from 14.98 per cent to more than 17 per cent.

The main manufacturers are engaged in a fierce round of price-cutting and incentive schemes to capture sales at a time when the industry expects a total market decline this year of about 10 per cent below 1989's record 2.22 million.

Dealers are being told to slash prices by £1,000 or more from the sticker price of some models to keep cars flowing out of the showrooms.

Nissan raised the stakes in the sales war last week by announcing it was cutting the price of its British-built Bluebird saloons and hatchbacks by almost £1,000.

That makes the base Bluebird model up to £1,600 cheaper than its main competitor in the highly competitive sector for mid-range cars, such as the Vauxhall Cavalier, Ford Sierra and Peugeot 405.

Nissan has moved because its Bluebird has been unable to penetrate Ford and Vauxhall's market supremacy, despite the fact that the model is manufactured in Washington, North Carolina and Wear.

Manufacturers were worried that increases in taxation would eventually persuade employees to change the company car for their own vehicles.

That would, they said, have the effect of forcing companies to pay out compensatory salary rises to employees and would mean disaster for the motor manufacturers as employees buying their own car would either buy second-hand or smaller vehicles.

However, the demand for company cars — greater in Britain than anywhere else in the world — shows no signs of slackening. That may be to the advantage of British manufacturers, for many companies still operate a "Buy British" policy.

Mr Pykett added: "The growth of fleets was ending shows no signs at all. Instead, people want more cars. They may not buy them themselves, but their companies will be forced to provide to keep good people."

"That is good for the motor manufacturers and for employees who do not have to face the expense and worry of maintaining their own cars."

With the discount and £300 voucher, a Ford employee could buy a three-door Escort 1.3L, normally priced in the showrooms at £7,545, for less than £5,600.

The scheme is launched as

Ford's 32,000 manual workers

start to enjoy one of the best

pay packages negotiated in

manufacturing.

Instead, delegates urged greater use of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. This allows for the trial of terrorist suspects in the country's jury Special Criminal Court for offences committed outside its jurisdiction.

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Dublin on April 28 on German unification.

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In Belfast last week Mr Haughey promised to look at the legislation.

• The IRA rallied its supporters with a samba-rhythmed message at its annual Easter parade yesterday but tempered it with a renewed offer of peace talks.

The message was read out at the Republican plot at Milltown cemetery, west Belfast.

It said: "While Britain remains in Ireland, its troops and policy-makers will not be safe." The message added, however, that the terrorist organization was prepared to talk without preconditions about how to achieve peace.

Ostrich bonnets for the Easter parade



Members of a Belgian folk dance troupe preparing to lead the Easter parade at Battersea Park, south-west London, yesterday, wearing hats each of which is made from up to 300 hand-dyed ostrich feathers

Battle to rein in a growing perk

By Our Motoring Correspondent

THE spread of the company car as a salary perk has worried the Government, which has stepped up its efforts to raise taxation for recipients.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, put up scale charges by 20 per cent in the last Budget.

However, as taxes go up, demand for company cars also rises, according to Cowie Interleasing, Britain's largest leasing firm with more than 53,000 cars on the roads.

While tax on the personal benefit of a car has been raised on average from about £1,100 to £2,500 in two years, the number of vehicles in fleets of 25 and over has soared from 45,000 in 1985 to almost 700,000.

At a time when wage inflation is a big concern and the best skilled employees are in short supply, Cowie Interleasing says companies still believe that the company car is the best perk available.

Mr Neil Pykett, the firm's managing director, said he has dealt with one company where all 800 employees have a company car.

In his own business, even the switchboard supervisor and two secretaries are supplied with company cars to prevent them from moving to other businesses. Mr Pykett added: "It is now very difficult

to recruit and keep the best people. Whatever the Government has done to personal taxation, there is still a huge demand for company cars."

Manufacturers were worried that increases in taxation would eventually persuade employees to change the company car for their own vehicles.

That would, they said, have the effect of forcing companies to pay out compensatory salary rises to employees and would mean disaster for the motor manufacturers as employees buying their own vehicles — greater in Britain than anywhere else in the world — shows no signs of slackening.

Mr Pykett added: "The growth of fleets was ending shows no signs at all. Instead, people want more cars. They may not buy them themselves, but their companies will be forced to provide to keep good people."

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Death of former minister

LORD Bruce-Gardyne, a former Conservative Treasury minister and a fierce advocate of monetarism, has died after a long illness, Downing Street said yesterday. He was 60.

Mrs Thatcher paid tribute to "a marvellous colleague, loyal but always retaining an independent mind" and "never afraid to challenge orthodoxy".

"Jock" Bruce-Gardyne retained cheerfulness and commitment to work — largely as a political and financial writer — even when he knew that death was imminent after brain surgery last year. He wrote about his illness and the prospect of death with wit and without self-pity.

Recently, he said: "At least I've had time to put my affairs in order and I seem able to continue my life of crime."

Obituary, page 14

Haughey pressed on extradition law

MR CHARLES Haughey, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, is under renewed pressure to toughen up his country's extradition laws.

His coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, are to outline radical new proposals to within three weeks to plug legal loopholes.

Mrs Thatcher will spell out her concern over recent Irish Supreme Court judgements against extradition and will remind Mr Haughey of his government's promises to

change the laws if they inhibit effective extradition.

This will put further pressure on Mr Haughey to review the Extradition Act and to change it. Last week, however, his party's conference voted to oppose extradition to the United Kingdom.

Instead, delegates urged greater use of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. This allows for the trial of terrorist suspects in the country's jury Special Criminal Court for offences committed outside its jurisdiction.

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National Curriculum rules may be relaxed

By David Tyler, Education Editor

FURTHER relaxations in teaching of the National Curriculum, the main plank in education reforms, are likely following Mrs Thatcher's public questioning of whether the Government was "doing it right".

The Prime Minister made it clear that she believed the reforms have gone too far and would discourage good teaching. She said: "I do not think I ever thought they would do the syllabus in such detail. I believe there are thousands of teachers who are teaching extremely well."

"At any given time a large number of teachers are teaching a subject extremely well. But if you take them off what they know has worked for years, far better than anyone else's syllabus, then you wonder, were you doing it right?"

Statutory lessons in English, mathematics and science have been introduced in primary schools.

The full range of 10 subjects — including technology, history, geography, modern languages, art, music and physical education — will be introduced in all schools within the next three years.

Mrs Thatcher said she still believed it was important to test children from the age of seven in mathematics, English and science. Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that there will no longer be statutory testing of other subjects at ages seven and 11.

Both Downing Street and the Department of Education and Science denied yesterday that Mrs Thatcher's remarks revealed a split with Mr MacGregor.

Miss Helen Price, from Leeds, told the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Bournemouth: "We want to know that if we want to walk out over class sizes the rest of the national union will come out too. We cannot take any more."

Miss Frances Roberts, from Bristol, was hissed by many of the 1,200 delegates when she said that the union would risk losing public support if it took strike action.

She said: "We have to remember that parents and the public approve of the National Curriculum."

The union was also asked to support members who refuse to teach certain parts of the curriculum.

Mr David Wahl, from Ealing, west London, said the curriculum would, in its present form, increase divisions in race, class and gender.

He said that the Labour Party curriculum proposals were only a watered-down version of what is being done by the present government. "We have to fight for a National Curriculum we believe in. We have to fight for it in our schools and in our communities. We owe it to the children we teach and the educational service we work in."

Miss Carole Avery, a teacher in Tower Hamlets, east London, said: "The National Curriculum can turn into a nationalist curriculum. It does not reflect the multi-national basis of our society. It aims to control what is being taught and many of us already feel constrained to teach to the test."

Dr Alan Leech, a Hampshire headmaster and member of the union's national executive, said that teachers were legally required to teach the National Curriculum.

The only realistic action they could take was to ensure that it was modified to their requirements, he said.

• The union will decide later this week on what any restrictions should be placed on its new political fund.

Education, page 19



The Clive-Ponsonby-Fane relaxing after a day's work in their prize-winning garden, which was restored after a long period of neglect

Couple turn jungle into award-winning garden

The Garden of the Year award for 1989 has been given to Brynston d'Evercy, near Yeovil, Somerset.

The 13th century house has been owned by the Clive-Ponsonby-Fane family since 1731. Charles and Judy Clive-Ponsonby-Fane live there now with their family.

The estate, which has nine acres of gardens and 80 acres of park, also boasts its own vineyard, producing 2,500 bottles of wine in a good year.

The garden is designed for low maintenance. Dense planting and

ground cover plants help to suppress weeds and foliage is as important as creating colour.

Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane, aged 48, who describes himself as a vigneron and distiller, also has the weighty responsibility of looking after the estate. "I was very surprised to hear that we had won this wonderful award," he said. "I am pleased for all the people who put so much hard work into the garden."

He said his wife Judith had designed it. "We have had some

tremendous help from a young girl called Debbie Stabbins who joined us five years ago on a young workers' scheme."

The award, which is given by the Historic Houses Association in conjunction with Christie's auctioneers, will be presented to the family on May 17.

In 1958 Brynston d'Evercy was let as a boys' public school, but when Mr Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane married Judy in 1974, they took back the house for their own use. "It was a

rather sad and empty school when we came back. No garden, just a jungle and lawns up to the walls with no flower beds," Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane said.

"It has always been my hope that one day the family would return and that we could get the garden back to its former glory."

The garden is open to the public today, after which it will open again on May 1 for five months.

Text and photograph by Stephen Markeson

Executive status for the butler of today

HUDSON would not have been amused. Jeeves would have found the whole thing dashed odd.

In their day, a good butler was seen rather than heard, and upstairs and downstairs kept a respectable distance.

Not so today. The modern butler is likely to be a jogger, a karate expert, a homeowner, and married. Worst of all, he may be a she.

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said at the union's annual conference in Bournemouth yesterday: "The issues raised by the Prime Minister are too important to be ignored any longer."

The union was also asked to support members who refuse to teach certain parts of the curriculum.

Mr David Wahl, from Ealing, west London, said the curriculum would, in its present form, increase divisions in race, class and gender.

He said that the Labour Party curriculum proposals were only a watered-down version of what is being done by the present government.

"We have to fight for a National Curriculum we believe in. We have to fight for it in our schools and in our communities. We owe it to the children we teach and the educational service we work in."

Mr Derek Fatchett, a Labour front bench education spokesman, said: "Mrs Thatcher and Mr MacGregor have inflicted uncertainty on the schools and a burden of change on teachers that now seem to be against her wishes. Mrs Thatcher appears to be moving towards a slimmed-down curriculum but her secretary of state has not yet been told."

Schools should adopt a positive policy of employing more women in senior teaching posts, Mrs Barbara Lloyd told the conference. "There are still scandalously few women in senior management," she said.

Local authorities must provide the right conditions for women, so that they feel able to apply for jobs.

Heseltine urges joining EMS in next 12 months

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday urged British membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System within the next 12 months, saying that he had been encouraged by recent pronouncements on the subject from Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Heseltine said that the importance of a membership application was the signal it gave that domestic policies would embrace the disciplines of the Bundesbank.

Clearly encouraging ministers to chivvy the Prime Minister, whose Cabinet left over his style of government, Mr Heseltine said in the context of the ERM: "They're there to make collective judgements."

The former Secretary of State for Defence gave strong support to the Government's anti-inflation policies, saying that there was no alternative to high interest rates and predicting that the political climate would change as both interest rates and inflation fell at this time next year.

Mr Heseltine, who advised the Cabinet against the community charge in 1981, said however that he would be contributing to the debate which the Government now intended to encourage about its future shape.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World This Weekend*, he again said that he could not foresee the circumstances in which he would challenge Mrs Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative Party leadership. He again predicted that she would lead the party into the next election "and the Conservatives will win it".

He said that the "soft

Four days remain to choose environment award winner

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

FOUR days remain in which to vote for the winner of the £5,000 Environment Award sponsored by *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's evening news programme, *PM*.

Five candidates from Scotland to Somerset have been shortlisted for the prize, which will be presented at Broadcasting House in London on May 8 by Dr Richard Leakey, head of the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

Mr Ron Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group have shown that broadleaved forest will grow freely in the Scottish Highlands, where it was the original covering.

Mr Bob Hopkins, a worker at the Conoco oil refinery at Inverness, Highlands, has created a woodland nature reserve in the refinery which is used to great effect by local schools.

Members of the Kirkstall Valley Campaign have drawn up a development proposal for the valley of the River Aire where it enters Leeds, which is threatened by comprehensive redevelopment.

The Children of the Hull Group of Watch, the Junior Wildlife Club of the Royal

Society for Nature Conservation, are looking after Britain's largest colony of common frogs at Anlaby Common, outside Hull.

Miss Janet White, a sheep farmer in the Quantock hills of Somerset, is watching over a rich collection of wildlife, from ravens to dormice.

For voting the finalists are listed as: 1. Loch Garry; 2. Inverness; 3. Leeds; 4. Hull; 5. Quantocks.

To vote, write the number and name of one candidate only, thus: 2 Inverness, on a postcard. Each person may cast one vote and must send their full name and address to: *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG.

Voting closes at first post this Friday, April 20.

Scots TUC to debate poll reform

By Kerry Gill

THE Scottish Trades Union Congress, which holds its annual conference in Glasgow this week, will be asked to back proportional representation for a Scottish Parliament.

Electoral and constitutional reform will be the subject of one of the biggest debates in the conference, as well as the question of fiscal powers for the proposed body.

After a meeting of the congress's general council yesterday, Mr Campbell Christie, the general secretary, said that it would back a call for equal representation of men and women in such an assembly.

On the raising of finance, Mr Christie said that since the late 1970s the council had supported the maintenance of a block grant and the ability of a parliament to raise personal income tax.

The congress has however also considered demanding a fixed proportion of all taxes raised by the Government to help finance a parliament — known as assigned revenues. Mr Christie said: "We

have been in discussion in the council over the assigned revenues idea which is that a Scottish Parliament should be entitled to a certain proportion of all taxation raised.

"It would be a right which could be topped up by negotiations on a block grant and further topped up by the ability of a Scottish Parliament to vary personal income tax."

The conference is also likely to back Scottish Parliamentary powers over education and training with funding from both the public and private sectors to meet future needs.

Such powers would include regulatory powers over public utilities, particularly postal services and telecommunications. That would ensure an end to a policy of closing or privatizing local post offices and encourage increased customer services.

The community charge will be vigorously discussed and condemned. One composite motion declares that more than 500,000 people have not paid a

penny and many more are in arrears. Even those who have paid, it claims, have been reluctant to do so and up to 80 per cent of the Scottish population are against the tax.

The general council will be asked to organize improved opposition to the tax within the community and to ensure that no trade unionist is penalized by an employer for either being in arrears or refusing to be party to poll tax warrant sales.

• The health service union Cohe has protested to the Scottish Ambulance Service over its proposal to deduct holiday pay from ambulance drivers who took strike action during the recent dispute.

Mr Jim Devine, the union's Scottish regional officer, said yesterday that the move was not conducive to good industrial relations and meant that workers were being penalized for exercising their right to take industrial action.

The union is to raise the matter at the Scottish TUC conference.

Sale of plates ends saucy postcard era

By John Shaw

PART of a comic world of fat ladies and hen-pecked husbands will disappear this week. They were the creations of Donald McGill, king of the saucy postcard, whose output sold in millions between 1904 and his death in 1962.

McGill's publisher went into liquidation two years ago. Old cards may still linger in some seaside postcard racks, but 140 master copper printing plates and a stock of 2,000 cards are to be sold at GA Auction Galleries, Worthing, West Sussex, on Saturday.

They were found in the corner of a warehouse at Littlehampton. Mr Paul Campbell, the auctioneer, said: "They are little gems. Many of them are still in their protective envelopes and seem to have been untouched since the 1940s." They reveal a post-war world of sentiment, "making do" in austerity, and broad double entendre.

McGill left only £375 0s 6d, but in an essay on his art, George Orwell wrote: "What you are really looking at is something as traditional as Greek tragedy, a sort of sub-world of smacked bottoms and scrawny mothers-in-law which is part of western European consciousness."

Fifteen thousand fans share silent memory of Hillsborough dead

By Ronald Faux

FIFTEEN thousand football fans stood in silence at the Anfield ground in Liverpool yesterday, marking the moment a year ago when 96 people died in the Hillsborough disaster. Two of the fans injured that day are still in hospital, in coma.

The solemn memorial service was led by senior Liverpool clergy on the next turf of the Anfield ground where the ashes of some of the victims lie scattered. Among those present were Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition and Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary. Hymns accompanied by the Salvation Army band and singers from Merseyside Opera were carried across the ground on a cold spring wind.

More supporters had been expected to attend the service and large areas of the stadium were empty but the fans, civil leaders of Liverpool, Sheffield

and Nottingham and the Football authorities ensured that was nothing to lessen the strong sense of sorrow and occasion at the ground.

The Anglican bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, said that in the silence they had remembered those they had loved and felt again the sharpness of personal loss and the waste of the tragedy.

It said it was alright to share deep feelings. Football terraces have always been macho places; men were not expected to weep or to tell each other how they were feeling. In that first fortnight many were able to express feelings of grief or anger or guilt — perhaps feeling guilty at having been there and having survived.

The bishop said: "Perhaps we said: 'All we have is neighbourhood or family ties, or friendship'. Those have loaves and fishes; and the Lord has taken them, turned them into little miracles of healing. We did not know what to say, so we did better

and listened; or we sat with people who wanted to be still. Our loaves and fishes include calling round to say 'hello' or going for a walk together, ringing up to ask how someone was feeling or sending a card as a reminder that someone cared."

The bishop said the in his family's garden they had planted three small crab apple trees as their memorial to Hillsborough. Each autumn they would bear dozens of small, round scarlet and yellow fruits — Liverpool's colours.

"Each winter the crab apples will fall and die. When there are only the dark stems of winter to see, it is hard to believe any new life is to come. But today the first blossoms of new life are vigorously blooming. The blossom is the promise that new fruit will appear later in the year."

"Some people come down here for a holiday, and some bring their wives with them."



"Some people come down here for a holiday, and some bring their wives with them."

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today Nelson Mandela, the African nationalist leader, will appear at a concert at Wembley Stadium, London. National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Bournemouth.

Tomorrow Service at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, to mark fourth anniversary of the kidnapping of Mr John McCarthy, the British journalist held in Beirut; protest outside the Iranian embassy. The Prince and Princess of Wales attend *Hunt for the Red October* film premiere.

Wednesday Inquests into deaths of 95 people who died in the Hillsborough football tragedy last year opens at the Memorial Hall in Sheffield. Friends of the Earth conference on a market for rain forest products.

Thursday The Queen Mother attends a Colditz Association reunion at the Imperial War Museum.

Mr Hugh Symonds, international fell-runner, starts attempt to climb all of Britain's peaks higher than 3,000ft. A number of lordships of the manor to be sold, including the Superiority

Rethink of plans for national body to run JPs' courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

RADICAL plans by the Home Office to create a national magistrates' courts service in England and Wales, funded and run by central government, appear to have been substantially modified after widespread criticism.

The plans, put forward in a Home Office scrutiny report last summer, have been criticized by many magistrates who fear that the proposals threaten their independence.

The Home Office has now, however, indicated a significant shift away from its central plan, under which the magistrates' courts service

would be run by an executive agency headed by a director general directly responsible to the Home Secretary.

Instead, it is proposing to cost three options, a decision made in response to concern expressed by magistrates and others over the plans.

These options are for the original scrutiny proposal for an executive agency; a second model, under which the service would be run by a board instead of a chief executive; and a third model, involving a more fragmented structure with several area management units funded by central gov-

ernment but independently managed by local boards.

Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said he was "encouraged" by the fact that the Home Office was clearly prepared to re-think its proposals.

"It is indicative of flexibility and of willingness to negotiate on a broader front."

The association had not yet assessed the new third option. However, he was concerned with the likely result if administration of the service were divided into large regions, perhaps coterminous with those of the Crown Prosecution Service. In some areas, these would be far too big, he said.

The second option, involving a board structure, was preferable to the original plan for an executive agency because it would allow for magistrates to be represented and therefore involved in running the service.

Under the original plan, the role of magistrates was reduced to a token "couple of justices somewhere in the organization", Mr Hosking said.

He said: "Our concern is that magistrates both retain a substantial role at every level and a controlling role in connection with training and the appointment of justices' clerks or legal advisers. If we finished up with an administratively-based organization, the administrators would control the training and that we cannot accept."

The association accepts the case for reforming the administration of the magistracy and does not oppose plans for 100 per cent central government funding (at present 20 per cent comes from local authorities).

However, solicitors had to be free to choose the areas of work they wished to specialize in and whether to do legal aid work.

He did not believe the Lord Chancellor intended every firm in the country to be bound to do a legal aid case.

Nor, he said, should barristers have such a requirement imposed on them.

If there was a statutory requirement to do legal aid work, the Government could let the rates of pay drop down and down with impunity."

Solicitors have widely criticized the workings of the Bar's cab-rank rule as more apparent than real.

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Annuating the options in a recent parliamentary answer, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said that they were being put forward in the light of comments on the scrutiny report. He would not reach any firm decisions about the service's organization until he had had "an opportunity to consider the results of this costing assessment".

'Cab rank' ruling may be cut from legal reform Bill

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Government is expected to seek to remove the "cab-rank" rule from the Courts and Legal Services Bill, in the Commons for its second reading this week.

The decision on the most hotly-contested provision in the Bill - which would require solicitors and barristers to take each case in strict order as it comes along - follows discussions between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC.

Sir Patrick is now likely to put forward an amendment that would impose a statutory duty on those drawing up the professional rules on solicitor-advocates to ensure that they contain some kind of cab-rank rule.

Mr Walter Merricks, assistant secretary general of the Law Society, said such a move would "seem to be a sensible way round the problem".

Insertion of the cab-rank rule into the Bill in the House of Lords was a significant victory for the Bar, which wants solicitor-advocates in the higher courts to be bound by the same rules as barristers.

It was the most significant government defeat in the Bill's passage.

The Law Society said that such a rule would fetter the exercise of wider advocacy rights by solicitors under the

Bill's reforms. They would have to perform like "minibarristers", Mr Merricks said.

If the Government adopted the formula which removed the rule from primary legislation the society would be able to identify from "the cab-rank" label those elements which could be applied to solicitors, he said.

The phrase had several strands of meaning. "If it means taking the rough with the smooth, of course we support that ethos," he said.

However, solicitors had to be free to choose the areas of work they wished to specialize in and whether to do legal aid work.

He did not believe the Lord Chancellor intended every firm in the country to be bound to do a legal aid case.

Nor, he said, should barristers have such a requirement imposed on them.

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Bottles and glasses 'used in most attacks in cities'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

FOUR out of five injuries from assault are caused by the use of beer glasses and bottles, according to a survey of accident and emergency centres in five large city hospitals.

It found that 70 per cent of victims sustained noticeable facial scarring and one in 20 were likely to have long-term disabilities.

The study, reported in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, was carried out in casualty departments in Bristol, Manchester, Sunderland, Birmingham and Edinburgh over two weekends last May and involved 43 patients.

Of the injuries, 58 per cent were caused by straight one-pint beer glasses, 21 per cent by bottles and less than 5 per cent by either pint or half pint beer tankards, half-pint lager glasses or wine and spirit

glasses. Most patients injured by bottles or large lager glasses said they had not been broken before impact.

Seven out of 10 attacks took place in or near public houses or discos and involved young people in late night or early morning disturbances.

Surgeons from the Department of Oral Medicine, Surgery and Pathology at Bristol Royal Infirmary and Bristol University, who made the survey, said use of safety glass or plastic could cut the number of injuries considerably.

The properties of large lager glasses should be altered and codes of practice should be introduced to cover use of safety glass or plastic containers in urban licensed premises, "particularly those frequented mainly by young people", the report said.

Management efficiency measures and increased sale of lager meant that more straight lager glasses were being produced. Between 1983 and 1989 production of straight lager glasses increased by 40 per cent at the expense of beer tankards.

Surgeons said that as a result of these changes glass abuse may be becoming more frequent.

• The number of beds in acute hospitals in the National Health Service has dropped by more than 25,000 in the past 10 years, the Labour Party claims today.

Mr Robin Cook, shadow health spokesman, said the losses represented "a massive haemorrhage in the body of the NHS" and called on the Government to take urgent action to halt the decline.

It argues that crime cannot be explained by social factors alone and is the result of individual choice strongly influenced by biological make-up and family relationships.

UK crime victims 'are paid more'

BRITAIN has one of the most generous state-run compensation schemes for victims of violent crime in Western Europe, Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, said yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

He made public a letter he has sent to Sir John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North, in which he recalls that £70 million was paid in 1988 to victims of crimes such as muggings and armed robberies in England, Scotland and Wales.

That compared with payments by similar schemes in France and West Germany - countries with roughly comparable popula-

tions to Britain - of £11 million and £13 million respectively.

He also pointed out that, according to a recent survey, Britain suffered proportionately less violent crime than either of the other two countries.

It appears that Mr Patten's letter was prompted by recent criticism of the efficiency of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Government's decision to raise the lower limit for payments from £550 to £750. Opposition MPs and the charity, Victim Support, say the move will deprive about 9,000 people of compensation each year.

Mr Baker: Will open the conference on crime

Liquidation auction

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of the M3 across Twyford Down, near Winchester, and a new east London river crossing. Between them they would designate ancient monuments and woodland, and designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, sites of special scientific interest and heritage coastline, she said.

Proposals under consideration include the widening of the A328/616 across the Peak National Park, encroaching on open moorland; a new route across the South Downs from Kent to Hampshire to link with the Channel tunnel; and the dualising of the A339 between Newbury and Basingstoke across Greenham Common, she said.

Increasing traffic, faster speeds and more heavy lorries will increase the pressures on country life. New solutions are needed urgently."

Approval had recently been given for a new dual carriageway along the White Cliffs of Dover, the extension

American chrome at home in a British park

DEBORA HOLLOWAY



Denise Wiggins and Neil Scott, members of the 'Hi Diners', at the Pre 50 American Auto Club's rally at Syon Park, west London, yesterday

Americans challenge theories on UK crime

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

THE widespread belief that crime is chiefly the product of social factors such as poor housing or poverty is to be challenged by a Conservative think-tank next month.

A group of influential American academics has been brought together by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), the independent policy unit jointly founded by the Prime Minister. They will argue that the roots of crime lie in the collapse of the family and the erosion of individual responsibility.

The association accepts the case for reforming the administration of the magistracy and does not oppose plans for 100 per cent central government funding (at present 20 per cent comes from local authorities).

However, solicitors had to be free to choose the areas of work they wished to specialize in and whether to do legal aid work.

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Russians likely to scrap 100 warships, MoD says

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Soviet Navy is engaged in a big exercise to reduce its fleet, with more than 100 ships and submarines likely to be scrapped this year, according to an internal Ministry of Defence assessment.

The document said that the Soviet Union may end up with "a leaner and meaner Navy". It said: "On the basis of present building rates and an average ship life of 30 years, the Soviet Navy should probably bottom out at about eight carriers of various sorts, 20 cruisers and battlecruisers, perhaps 120 destroyers and perhaps 120 destroyers and large frigates and a similar number of nuclear-powered submarines."

The navy's case will not

have been helped either by its political failures in the Third World or by the more recent series of embarrassing submarine accidents at home and abroad."

The Soviet Navy also faces a "block obsolescence problem" in the 1990s, as it needed to replace the large number of ships and submarines that will be approaching the end of their operational lives.

Recently there have been reports of growing criticism in the Soviet Navy that under Gorbachev regimes that policy was to build big ships as status symbols". The min-

istry document said that in an age of "defensive sufficiency"

- Mr Gorbachev's concept of minimum defence - "the old grey and blue-water fleet looks increasingly anachronistic to a political leadership more interested in maritime arms control".

The Soviet Navy has not improved its country's strategic position to an extent that would justify the resources devoted to it, the document added.

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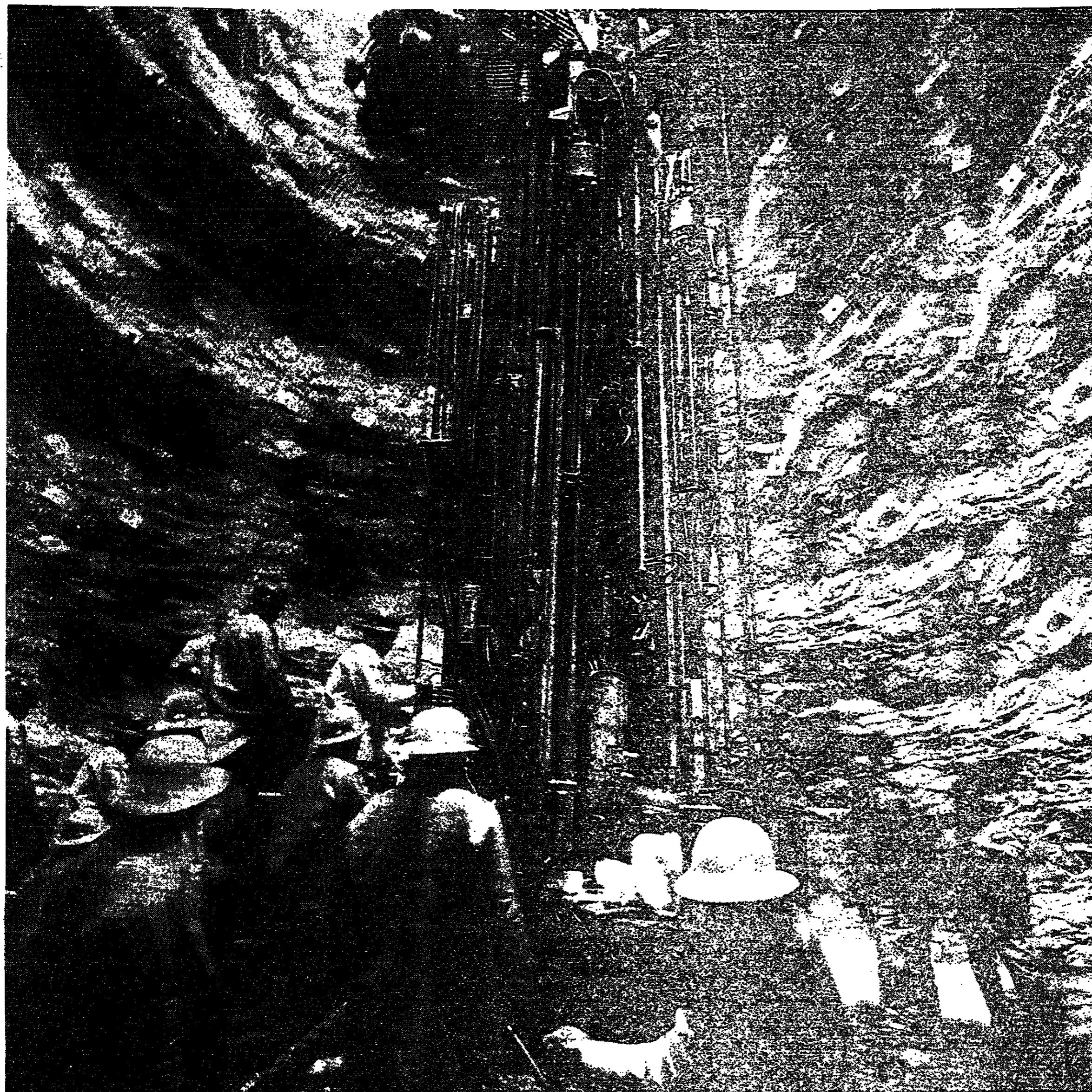
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Drilling is about to commence in this picture of shaft-sinking 1800 metres below the earth at Vaal Reefs' No. 10 shaft.

HOW DEEPLY IS ANGLO AMERICAN COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA?

Very deeply indeed. Nearly two and a half miles deep. This is where, as any miner will tell you, the rocks 'talk,' warning them of what they fear most - rockbursts.

Gold is increasingly being mined at such depths. The challenge is to make its extraction safe and efficient.

Where once miners listened to the rocks, today we have developed sophisticated seismic probes, planted deep into the rock and linked to a computer room on the surface, to detect the slightest tremor.

This is one way Anglo American leads the world in deep level mining technology, expertise which it exports across the globe.

Two and a half miles below the surface, fierce heat is also a constant problem. Here rock reaches temperatures of up to 63°C, hot enough to burn the skin when touched.

To combat this, we have created the largest refrigeration plants in the world, using chilled water and ice

to cool the air and make conditions bearable for the miner to work in.

As well as pioneering mining technology in our present mines, we haven't stopped looking for gold. This year, Anglo is spending R200m. on prospecting for gold in South Africa alone.

You might think that after over a century of mining, gold in South Africa would be running out. On the contrary, we believe that its potential reserves far exceed any known deposits in any other country.

Our activities extend far beyond our gold mines. Anglo American is South Africa's biggest group of companies - with interests that range from diamond, coal and platinum mining to paper, steel, farming and financial services.

We create wealth for our shareholders, and for our workers and their families - a total of

1,500,000 South Africans of all races and colours.

All this shows how deeply rooted we are in South Africa. We intend to stay there and continue investing there. From now until the end of 1992, capital investment should exceed R8 billion.

(In the case of Vaal Reefs, we're planning now for the year 2030.)

But as well as striving to build an economic future, we are also committed to a just, non-racial society within South Africa.

Which is why we will go on investing in its people, funding multi-racial schools and universities, skills training at technical colleges, health clinics and hospitals.

We will continue to encourage share and home ownership amongst our employees. We will help more small businesses by identifying goods and services they can supply:

For by creating not just wealth but opportunity, we can help move towards a fairer, more prosperous, post-apartheid South Africa for us all.



ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

MORI poll shows Tories must make biggest recovery to retain power

Labour jumps into a 17% lead

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

NO GOVERNMENT this century has faced such a daunting set of opinion poll results as those recorded by MORI in the latest three-month aggregate survey of voting intentions, one of the largest measurements of opinion on the polling scene.

Whatever happens at the next general election, records will now be set. Labour has always required the biggest post-war swing to achieve victory next time. Now for the Conservatives to retain power they must make the biggest ever recovery from a mid-term trough.

No government has ever fallen more than 20 per cent behind the main opposition party and come back to win. On the March figures alone the Conservatives were 24 per cent behind Labour.

The latest MORI survey shows that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is now the least popular Prime Minister in British polling history, with only 20 per cent of those questioned satisfied with her performance and 76 per cent dissatisfied.

She is still, however, seven points clear of equal Michael Foot's unenviable record as the most unpopular party leader ever at 13 per cent.

The lowest satisfaction rating for Mr Neil Kinnock, who has averaged 42 per cent satisfaction for the past three months, was 27 per cent in December 1988.

Back in June 1982 Mrs Thatcher had a satisfaction rating of 59 per cent, so almost 40 people in every 100 have since changed their mind about her.

The latest MORI figures will intensify pressures on Mrs Thatcher's leadership and increase Conservative debate about whether she should step down before the election. The Prime Minister is, however, still running ahead of the Government which, with a satisfaction rating of only 16 per cent, has matched the previous record low.

The 79 per cent dissatisfaction with the Government is also the worst ever such rating.

Another bleak figure for the Government is that the economic optimism index, obtained by subtracting those who believe that the economy will deteriorate over the next year from those who expect it to improve, is showing the lowest figure since 1980 at minus 45.

Almost two thirds of poll respondents, 60 per cent, are pessimistic about economic prospects over the next year while only 17 per cent believe

that things will improve. As the accompanying graph confirms, there has been a close correlation in recent years between the economic optimism index and the popularity rating of the Government. MORI research shows that 90 per cent of the change in voting intention since the last general election is accounted for by the change in economic optimism.

In a sample of 5,684 adults MORI measured party support over the past three months at Labour 51 per cent, Conservatives 34 per cent, Liberal Democrats 5 per cent, SDP 4 per cent, Green Party 4 per cent and Others 2 per cent.

That compares with figures over the past three elections:

	Con	Lab	Lib	All
1979	45	38	14	
1983	44	28	26	
1987	43	32	23	

Reapeted across the country on a uniform swing at the next general election, the present figures would result in a Labour majority of 118 seats, with Labour holding 384, the Conservatives 239, Nationalists 9, and Ulster parties 17. But local variations are likely in practice, particularly in seats held by the former Alliance parties.

The latest figures are far worse for the Conservative Government even than those at the October 1974 general election, the last time Labour won an election. The results then were: Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 37 per cent and Liberals 19 per cent. By contrast with the Labour lead then of just 3 per cent, Mr Kinnock's party, which only moved into the lead for the first time in the second quarter of 1989, has now opened up a gap of 17 per cent.

The swing away from the Government in the first quarter of 1990 is another record. The Labour lead in the last quarter of 1989 was only 8 per cent, less than half the present gap.

The evidence of other recent polls is that the lead has been extending further towards the end of the period covered by the three-month MORI survey. It is the biggest swing against the Government in a single quarter since the aggregate polls began after the 1987 general election.

That could be explained by yet another record set in the latest poll. Those naming the poll tax and local government as one of the two or three most important issues have increased over each of the past three months from 22 per cent in January to 32 per cent in February and 49 per cent in March, the biggest single in-

crease in a month for any issue.

Local government issues have rarely in past years rated higher than 10-12 per cent but they are now 23 per cent higher than any other single subject.

The Government's poor showing on the community charge issue indicates a clear failure to put across its message on local government reforms, which do produce winners as well as losers.

When MORI polled voters on general election day in 1987 there were significant majorities against water and electricity privatization and against the proposed educational reforms, but there was a 4 per cent plurality in favour of the poll tax promised in the election manifesto.

A recent MORI poll of 1,087 electors on March 23, after the Budget and the Mid Staffordshire by-election, showed that 65 per cent opposed the poll tax and only 23 per cent approved of the idea, a net minus 42 per cent.

Three quarters of those polled thought that the Budget would make the rich richer and the poor poorer and the same proportion believed it would not reduce unemployment.

Two thirds thought that it

would not keep inflation down, 60 per cent did not believe it would help to get Britain's economy going and 60 per cent did not believe it would help business confidence. Almost 70 per cent believed that it offered no incentive to work harder.

What will depress government supporters still further is that the Labour lead now appears to reflect not only reaction against the Government's policies but a growing belief that Labour has better policies to meet some of the present problems.

In MORI's March poll of 1,826 adults 60 per cent thought that Labour had the best policies on health care compared to only 15 per cent who believed the Conservative Government did.

On education the score was 46 per cent for Labour and 24 per cent for the Government.

Labour was seen as marginally better than the Tories on protecting the environment and 34 per cent thought that Labour had the best policies on local government finance, compared to 24 per cent who believed the Conservatives did.

The only issue on which the Government outscored Labour was defence, by a margin of 44 per cent support to 26 per cent, and even that represents a significant closing of the gap since the last election.

Ominously for the Conservatives, who have always relied on their reputation for better management of the economy as a vote winner, the parties are now rated equally at 31 per cent in terms of their ability to look after the nation's finances. Asked in MORI's Budget poll if the Government's policies would in the long term improve the state of Britain's economy, 55 per cent said they would not and only 34 per cent believed they would.

The full aggregate poll

shows that the Government has suffered a haemorrhage of support in virtually every class, age group and region.

Interest rates and mortgage rates are clearly having a significant effect on Conservative support and, for the moment at least, the Thatcher Government's achievement in increasing the proportion of home owners from 52 per cent of the population in 1979 to 66 per cent now is costing it

in the long term.

Labour has whittled down the Tory lead among the ABC1 middle classes from 36 per cent at the last general election to just 12 per cent in the latest quarter.

Among the age groups, a Labour lead of 2 per cent among the 18 to 24 age group at the last election has soared

to 33 per cent, nearly doubling

between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990.

In class terms, the position

among skilled workers underlines the Tory decline. In 1974, when Labour won, it had a lead of 23 per cent among C2s, who then represented 33 per cent of the electorate. In 1979 the two main parties shared the support of C2s and in the next two elections there was a Tory lead of 8 per cent and 4 per cent in that group.

Labour moved back into the lead among skilled workers

(who are now down to 27 per cent of the electorate) in the second quarter of 1988 and has now extended the margin to 28 per cent.

Labour has whittled down

the Tory lead among the ABC1 middle classes from 36 per cent at the last general election to just 12 per cent in the latest quarter.

Among the age groups, a Labour lead of 2 per cent among the 18 to 24 age group at the last election has soared

to 33 per cent, nearly doubling

between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990.

The Labour lead among the

25 to 34 age group averaged

7.8 per cent through 1989 and

has more than tripled from that to 25 per cent. There is now a 16 per cent Labour lead among the 35-54 age group.

Labour's lead among the 55-

plus age group (where the

Tories had a 15 per cent

margin at the last election) is only 8 per cent. That may be accounted for by the fact that many in that age group have finished buying their own homes and benefit from high interest rates on their savings while others are bemoaning the high level of mortgage interest.

The swing from Conservative to Labour since the last election is 11 per cent in the North, 14.5 per cent in the Midlands and 17 per cent in the South.

Labour's lead in the North

has extended from 10 per cent

at the last election to 32 per cent, while the Tory lead of 31

per cent in the South has become a Labour lead of 3 per cent.

In the crucial electoral

battleground of the Midlands a Tory lead at the last election of 11 per cent has become a Labour lead of 18 per cent.

Conservative supporters

seeking signs of hope amid the grim welter of statistics will have to scratch hard, but Tory strategists will note that while Conservative support

dropped 6 per cent over the last quarter only 3 points of that went to Labour, the other 3 points being divided between the two former Alliance parties.

After the small improve-

ment in the Liberal Demo-

crats' performance at the Mid

Staffordshire by-election that

may indicate that the centre

party slump has bottomed

out.

A reasonable performance

by the Liberal Democrats in

the May local elections could

initiate a recovery which

would bring some relief to the

Conservatives by redividing

the protest vote.

The 23 per cent Alliance

support at the last general

election is presently frag-

mented with the Liberal

Democrats, SDP and Green

Party sharing 13 per cent

between them. Labour has

taken the rest.

Conservatives might note

too that the Harold Wilson

government of 1966-70 did

recover from a 25 per cent

opinion poll deficit to take

the lead again before an election,

although it then lost.

Mr Edward Heath's govern-

ment recovered from a 20 per

cent Labour lead in its second

year to come close to winning

in February 1974. The ensuing

Labour Government also

managed to close completely a

20 per cent gap which opened

up in the opinion polls before

it was pried open again by the

Winter of Discontent. So it

can be done.

The figures are based on

the aggregated findings from

MORI's voting intention sur-

veys conducted over the period

from January-March 1990. In

total 5,684 adults aged 18 plus

were interviewed face-to-face

across Great Britain at 144

constituency sampling points.

Data were weighted to represent

the profile of the population.

© MORI/Times Newspapers

Survey 'shows poll tax principle backed'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

AN OPINION survey commissioned by the Conservative Party is being cited as

evidence that most people support the principle of the poll tax. The findings are

likely to lead to new Tory assaults on

ministers and on the party's publicity

machine for not selling the policy better.

Now, for the first time,

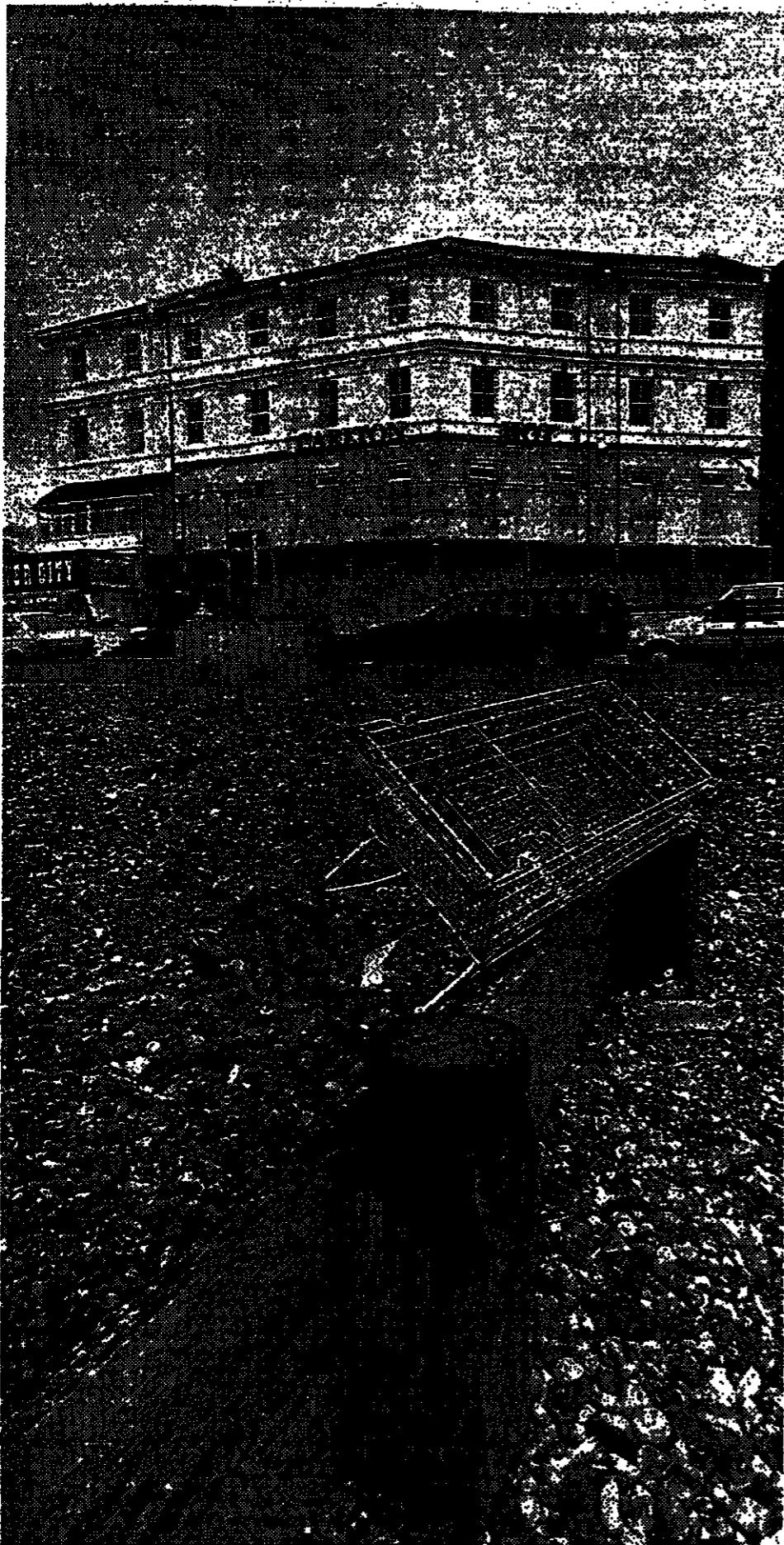
Labour is ahead with a 1 per

cent lead. The Conservative-Labour swing since the last quarter of this year

has been

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Sunnier forecast for blighted south coast resorts



Rain, rain go away: Bognor Regis this Easter weekend (above and left), missing the crowds which once flocked to the coast for a traditional weekend

SEASIDE resorts in south-east England, whose fortunes have declined because of changing holiday patterns, could be in for a revival. According to a new report, they would be growth points to relieve pressures on other parts of the region.

"Bucket and spade" holidaymakers who used to fill hotels and boarding houses from Easter to September are seriously depleted. Resorts such as Margate, Hastings and Bognor Regis have suffered from easy access to air travel and package holidays.

Some larger towns like Southend, Brighton and Bournemouth have successfully diversified by building factories, offices and conference facilities. However, others remain stuck with little more than run-down cafés and memories of the days when the British public was content to sit in deck-chairs in the rain eating sandwiches and drink

ing tea from Thermos flasks.

As a result, seasonal unemployment has become year-round. Lord Carnarvon, chairman of the London and South East Regional Planning Conference (Serplan), points out. With few local jobs available, people are forced to commute long distances to London and other large towns.

While the coastal towns have been largely ignored by investors, there has been increasing pressure for development on greenfield sites, particularly to the south and west of London. This has been strongly resisted by local residents, who resent the loss of open countryside and insist that the infrastructure is being overloaded.

The Government has bowed to local opposition, and to the threat of losing support in solidly Conservative seats, by rejecting applications for a new town in Oxfordshire and for other

large developments in Berkshire and north Hampshire.

But the latest report by Serplan — a regional planning and transport organization established by the London boroughs and by the county and district councils of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East and West Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey — calls for an altogether more positive approach to regional planning, and for directing growth to areas where it is most needed. As well as the coastal towns, these are identified as the so-called East London corridor along both banks of the Thames, the area to the north east of the capital and the less prosperous inner London boroughs.

Lord Carnarvon believes it is time to rethink the old concept of what he calls "rings of growth rippling outward from the centre". This, he thinks, leaves the needy inner boroughs starved of investment, puts too much pressure on the green belt and fails to reach some of the outer parts of the region.

The report strongly favours the retention of the green belt, and even its possible extension, but suggests that it could be used to provide more opportunities for sport and leisure compatible with the protection of the countryside. It also welcomes the Country-side Commission's proposal for a new "community forest" east of London.

Lord Carnarvon is particularly concerned that the area immediately adjoining the Channel Tunnel should not be seen as a growth point. So far it has been seen as primarily benefiting the south-east, instead of as a link between the whole of Britain and the Continent.

While much of the passenger traffic will originate in London and the south-east, the tunnel is expected to attract freight largely from the regions, he points out.

The report says that the rail link between London and the tunnel should be seen as part of a much broader strategy for the electrification of the entire InterCity network, with "dedicated" routes for the movement of international freight.

Present provision for a new terminal at Waterloo, an intermediate station at Ashford, Kent, and the use of existing lines for both passenger and freight services are inadequate, it says.

As part of an overall strategy to relieve pressure on the south-east, the Government should also examine how much international air traffic needs to be accommodated within the region, and the scope for development of airports in other parts of Britain.

Improved rail links will still be needed to all four London area airports, as well as to central London and the Docklands, the report says. Greater emphasis should be put on investment in and the improvement of mass transit systems in London and other large towns and cities.

New industrial developments should be located as closely as possible to the rail network, and planning authorities should seek to safeguard sites for this purpose.

The future of the regional economy is inextricably linked with the continued success of London as a major international centre of trade and commerce, the report says. But it draws attention to the "overheating" of some parts of the capital to the detriment of other areas.

A considerable amount of office development, especially in the City and Docklands, has already received planning permission, and can be expected to be built by the mid-1990s, generating 250,000 jobs, it observes.

The benefits could spread to other parts of inner London, but the improvement of public transport and the provision of affordable housing for essential service workers are vital components of regeneration.

Most of the demand for housing can and should be met within existing urban areas, the report concludes. Large new towns are inappropriate in any part of the region, but there may be a case for smaller new settlements with populations of between 3,000 and 15,000, to relieve pressure on established towns and cities.

• Shaping the South East Planning Strategy: a consultation paper, Serplan, 50-64 Broadway, London SW1H 0DB.

Lost on the commons of confusion

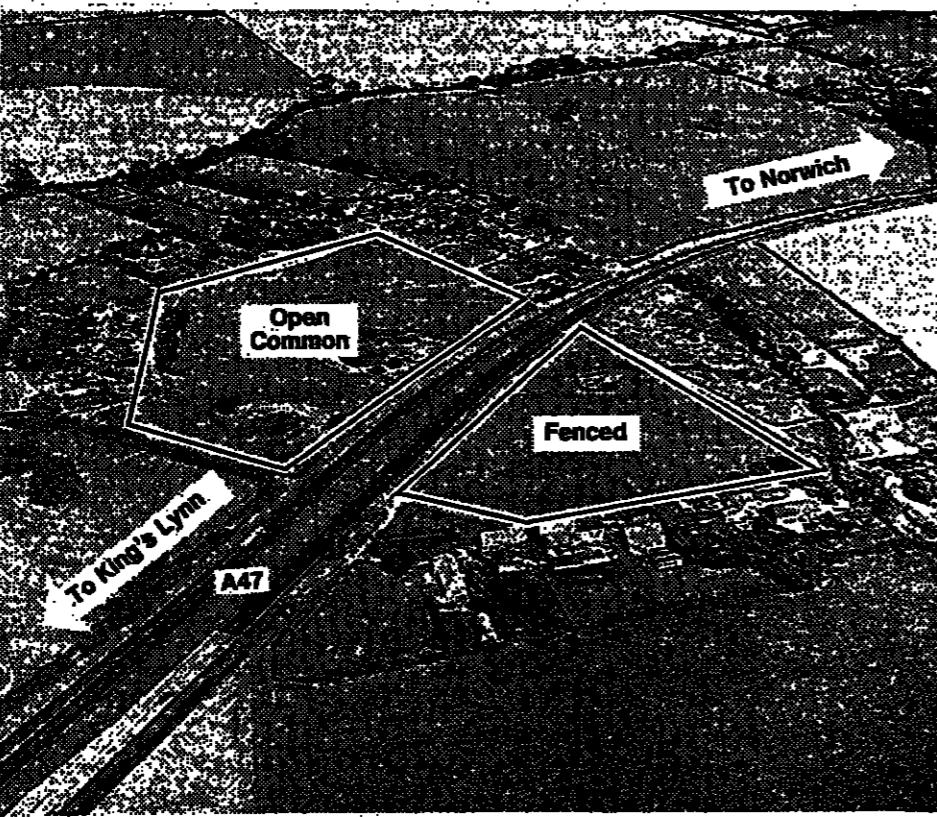
By Alan Franks

THE laws which govern the use of common land and village greens in England and Wales have become such a quagmire of confusion that even the presence of a wooden fence around a few acres of open land can set a small rural community into the throes of bitter dispute.

In the village of Eting Green, in the heart of the Norfolk countryside, one such battle has dragged on for 10 years, since the county council sold both the grazing rights and the ownership of the land. The present owner argues that there is no proven obligation on him to remove the fencing which was in place when he bought the land; and he has applied to remove the grazing rights from the public register kept by local authorities. A newly formed residents' association, meanwhile, voices concern that if the fence stays, then public rights of access might be lost.

But that is only the tip of the dung hill; no sooner do we look at the fine print of the dispute than we enter shadowy world of early 19th century enclosure awards, the still-valid provisions of the 1926 Law of Property Act, the 16 rights of common acquired by a butcher called Israel Neal and inherited by his tragically insane granddaughter.

And yet all the complexities are, in a manner of speaking, commonplace, and constitute the main reason why a formidable national alliance of interests is urging the Govern-



A green and divided land: Eting Green, split by a road in the heart of the countryside

ment to regularize the legal position. For, although the Conservative Party promised, in its 1987 manifesto, to introduce new legislation based on the recommendations of the Common Land Forum, which had been convened three years earlier, it has not yet found room in its Parliamentary programme. A statement by the Department

of the Environment is expected before the end of April. It was precisely because of tangles such as that at Eting Green that the forum was set up, and it is ironic that its own work should also have become the victim of delay. It is, in effect, a second bite at a problem which was tackled but unresolved by the 1965 Commons Registration Act.

struck off when the owner has bought out all the common rights. Once removed, the common status is lost for ever, and the likelihood of development or agricultural improvement rises. The commission argues that recent law cases considerably doubt over this "decommuniting" process, and county councils have been advised to treat all such applications with caution. One of the largest casualties in recent times was the 205-acre Cefn Coch Common in Gwynedd, North Wales, deregistered in 1987 by the Shotton Paper Company so that it could be afforested.

Although the Eting Green affair is far from exceptional, each dispute over common land has its own characteristics, and these come in a bewildering variety. This tiny circular hamlet on the A47 between Norwich and Kings Lynn is to be the scene of a rare reversal of the norm when, in 1993, the Department of Transport plans to remove the modern stretch of dual carriageway which takes the line of the old toll road across the middle of the common land, and re-route it to the south of the village. This will mean that, instead of a common being taken for development, it will actually revert to public usage and re-establish the integrity of the space bounded by the houses.

The residents' association and the landowner, Mr Kevan Dage, are united on one opinion — the existing laws are such a minefield that they entail an intolerable amount of time and money for the pursuit of a just solution.

When the Common Land Forum met six years ago, it seemed that an end to the chaos of Dickensian sub-plots was in sight. The mere fact that a grouping had been assembled with such diversity as to include the Country Landowners' Association, the National Farmers' Union and the Ramblers' Association, and 19 other bodies, was alone grounds for optimism. The forum reported in 1986 it had no fewer than 101 proposals to safeguard the commons. The main proposals were: all such land should receive immunity from being struck off the register and used for private purposes; that the public should have the right to walk on all the 1.5 million acres; and that the land should be cared for by a network of management associations. The Open Spaces Society has accepted that in return, no new registrations of common land will be sought.

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"While Nero fiddled... Rome burned"

Today at Wembley Nelson Mandela will receive the acclaim of a crowd of 72,000 as they enjoy a pop concert tribute to the newly released Vice-President of the ANC.

Meanwhile, in South Africa men, women and children continue to be slaughtered in bloody internece warfare in Natal — over 3,000 have died in two years — where ANC supporters are in conflict with the local population loyal to the 1.7 million strong Inkatha movement.

Why can you, Mr Mandela, spare three days to attend this pop concert but not two hours to attend peace talks in Natal — talks which you recently unilaterally cancelled?

After 42 years of apartheid and state repression, all South Africans now have the opportunity to create a free and democratic South Africa, but this process will not be an easy one, for without solving the problems of today, the solutions of tomorrow will be impossible.

Across South Africa, recent weeks have seen escalating violence, driven by radical elements within the ANC. Your movement Mr Mandela, is out of control and chronically divided — it is becoming an obstacle to, rather than an instrument of, change.

Your place now, surely, is in Natal, Pretoria and Cape Town — not Wembley, Blackpool and Stockholm?

Placed by The International Freedom Foundation (UK)
10 Storey's Gate, Westminster, London, SW1P 3AY

Natal toll rises as mood of violence grips South Africa

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

TWENTY people were killed in an upsurge of black faction fighting in a virtual battle zone of South Africa's Natal province during the weekend.

More than 400 people have died in Natal since the beginning of February in the most serious fighting for years between the conservative, Zulu-based Inkatha movement and their rivals in groups allied to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Thousands have fled from their homes to escape the daily carnage of the three-year-old dispute between the two groups, who differ over ways to end Pretoria's apartheid system.

Ten blacks were killed and two injured at Ngqela township near the town of Hawing, in apparent fighting for political supremacy in the stricken province.

A further five men were killed when shots were fired at a group of funeral-goers at Ngayeni. The fight was apparently between two gangs over possession of ground, police said in a daily report on political unrest.

Three black women and a man were found burnt to death at townships near Port Shepstone, and the body of a black man shot in the chest was found at Mpumalanga, one of the worst trouble spots in Natal.

But troubles and potential trouble are not confined to Natal. In black townships in the western Cape, the latest sartorial fashion in the growing ranks of the Pan Africanist

codes privately that, if an election were held today, the National Party would lose.

In Afrikaner communities throughout the country, the Conservative Party is circulating a petition demanding the Government's resignation for "selling out" the whites. "To hell with a million signatures," thunder the paramilitary right-wing extremists, "give us a million rifles."

In the KwaZulu homeland, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, probably the most powerful single opponent of the ANC, claims overwhelming support for his Inkatha movement. He has said: "The ANC doesn't scare me... if others buckle under the strain of their threats, so be it. I won't, and neither will Inkatha."

While the Government and the ANC unquestionably hold sway over the majority of South Africans, cracks are emerging in their respective power bases which could wreck the negotiating process unless tangible results are achieved quickly.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Constitutional Development, perceives two threats - continuing violence in black communities and a white backlash which could deprive the Government of its reform mandate.

He says the government strategy is to implement unpopular decisions as quickly as possible so that they may be digested, and hopefully accepted, before the next general election in 1994. Another senior Cabinet minister con-

From Robin Oakley and Peter Stothard
Hamilton, Bermuda

THE FIRST essential quality for a politician is luck. Margaret Thatcher's legendary good fortune has lately deserted her. In Bermuda, it returned.

The US press, hauled complainingly to the island over the Easter holiday, had been filled on television coverage of poll tax and prison riots in what appeared to US viewers as a crumbling, strife-torn Britain. The Iron Lady, they were convinced, had become a has-been and they were preparing to give her a hard time.

Minutes before the joint press conference with Mr Bush, news came through of the Soviet ultimatum to Lithuania and the American press corps game changed to: Let us see if we can re-create Bush the Wimp while she plays it tough.

In the event, Mr Bush proved resolute enough on the sunny information then available, even if Mrs Thatcher produced the stronger words, warning that the good relations with the Soviet Union would end if Lithuania was coerced. But the diversion ensured there were no questions at the international forum focusing on her dire domestic problems.

British officials were delighted with the Bermuda talks, which they called a summit and which Mr Bush called "part of a continuing series of consultations".

As Mrs Thatcher reported: "We discussed just about everything and agreed on just about everything." However, President Bush, who opened proceedings with a laconic 40-minute "presentation", confined himself to listening when they got around to South African sanctions and the Vietnamese boat people.



All smiles again: Mrs Thatcher finds relief in Bermuda as she and President Bush agreed on "just about everything"

The British side was pleased that Mr Bush went out of his way to underscore the continued existence of the "special relationship" and that he emphasized the status of the occasion by bringing along a massively heavyweight team, including the Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, his Chief of Staff, Mr John Sununu, and his top experts on European and Nato strategy - so many that they could not be accommodated at the

lunch table without making it dangerously lop-sided. Mr Bush, perhaps not surprisingly, is not taking the present level of the opinion polls to mean that Mrs Thatcher can be ignored as a has-been.

The British side, for its part, is learning to live with Mr Baker, previously resented as an ex-Treasury man with a world view over-coloured by the role of Germany and Japan as economic heavyweights. British officials

emphasized his role in the talks and Mrs Thatcher enthusiastically backed his call for a wider political role for Nato, receiving warm endorsement in return from Mr Bush for her ideas about developing the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

An early Nato summit, so that the form of Nato consultation be maintained, was an acceptable outcome for the Americans once it was clear that Mrs Thatcher was not going to fight a lost cause.

A further tricky question was the modernization of other nuclear weapons - artillery shells and the tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM) - and whether these can be deployed in Germany. TASM has the advantage in German eyes in that, as replacement for free-fall bombs in aircraft, it cannot be portrayed as a weapon which can hit only other Germans.

But German pressure against all nuclear weapons is great. Mrs Thatcher, while keen that US TASM-equipped planes be not withdrawn across the Atlantic, is also concerned that they not be confined solely to bases in Britain. Intensifying discussions can be expected on this score, particularly at the Nato Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Canada next month.

There is also an important subsidiary issue about the choice of TASM missile. If a French version is purchased instead of one of the two US models, will it be allowed to be tested in the US underground sites in Nevada? The British, especially the newly environmentalist Mrs Thatcher, may be reluctant to be associated with a French weapon which will be tested in the atmosphere.

This was not just a matter of ensuring that she did not allow herself to be pushed too far on Lithuania or to be tested on the remaining differences of emphasis about future Nato armaments. It was a sign she had secured what she wanted in Bermuda. With Mr Bush repaying in spades her past courtesies to him as a Vice-President struggling for recognition there was no need to put a gloss on the prints.

Both sides had managed to avoid detailed probing on the question of nuclear weapons in a united Germany. The

None of these problems was allowed to cloud the Bermuda air. They remained beneath the surface for another and less delicate day. Mrs Thatcher was happy to rest on what she had achieved.

Brazil young live street nightmare

From Louise Byrne, Rio de Janeiro

MARCOS is 11 years old and often sleeps in a telephone box in the southern part of Rio de Janeiro. A polio victim, he has a heavy limp and a cheeky smile which often gives way to aggression.

Girls often end up as prostitutes. In the north-eastern city of Recife, a psychologist, Senhora Ana Vasconcelos, spoke of policemen who kicked the stomachs of pregnant girls, often inducing abortions.

Just days before Senator Dimenstein's book is to be released, a Brazilian newspaper has also released the names of members of 15 police-run death squads acting on the outskirts of Rio. The authorities have yet to act on the list.

Some street children are involved in drug trafficking. Those who use the children know that, as minors, they cannot be sent to prison if caught.

In Rio de Janeiro the victims of pickpockets are most often tourists. Local political pressure recently led one judge to announce that all children under the age of six would be rounded up and taken to government institutes while attempts were made to reconcile them with their families.

However, the outcry against the ruling was so great that the action was suspended. Groups working with street children claimed that to round them up in such a way was to "treat them like dogs". Moreover, there have been claims of maltreatment by government institutions.

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Graveyard lesson in the strict values of a Baltic past

By Anatol Lieven

LOOKING at one's own name on a gravestone is a slightly ambiguous experience. I first saw mine on a block of granite beside a ruined church in the Latvian countryside, on a cold day in February with black crows swooping between the grey sky and the bare collective farm fields.

It is hard to tell today exactly where in his family graveyard at Mezotne, my great-uncle, Anatole Lieven, of the Russian Imperial Guard and the White Army of the Baltic, is buried. In an act of vandalism with deep historical motivations, the graveyard was destroyed after the war by vandals from the Russian settler population.

Most of the monuments have been smashed. Explosives seem to have been used to blow open the vaults — possibly on the mistaken assumption that the Baltic nobility was buried with its treasures.

My great-uncle chose his own gravestone from a natural, solid block of granite which he saw beside the road and

asked his coachman to bring home. It has survived the passage of time and the violence of the enemy, but has been knocked from its base, which is now lost among the weeds.

The evidence of a concentration on death reflected in the deliberate choice of a tombstone is not untypical of the Baltic German nobility. Back in the thirteenth century, as the German crusader knights poured into the region, slaughtered in the name of Christ, the pagan tribal chieftain, who was my family's ultimate ancestor, made the wise but inglorious decision to change his faith and save his lands.

The name Lieven is identical with the Estonian surname of Lüv, and reflects a common ancestry in the Livonian tribes (the old province of Livonia covered what is now southern Estonia and northern Latvia). But whereas the other Lüvs became serfs under the German nobility, the von Lievens joined the latter's ranks, in the first of a series of switches of allegiance which ended with a thumb in 1917, when my grandfather

refused an offer to serve as an engineer under the Bolsheviks and my great-uncle formed his brigade of the White Army.

In converting to Christianity, my family exchanged the perfectly rational worship of oaks and bears for that of the Christian God. Born in the savagery of the Northern Crusade, the pose He adopted in the Baltic was always fairly gloomy, and after the descendants of the knights converted to Protestantism, He became very bad-tempered indeed.

The severe Protestantism of the Baltic Germans has driven many of them over the years into neuroses familiar from the films of Ingmar Bergman. Some of us escape it by atheism, socialism or hedonism, or some combination of all three, but it usually gets us in the end.

As Anatole Lieven's brother, my grandfather, Prince Paul Lieven, dying in London under the impression that he was back in the Siberia of his youth, correctly asked: "What is the point of my going to heaven, when all the rest of my family and best friends will be in hell?"

One of the more useful aspects of this

religion's influence, however, has been the Protestant work ethic. Communicated to the Latvian and Estonian peoples, this tradition has been counteracted over the past 50 years by the effects of Soviet communism, and the question of which tradition wins is crucial to the well-being of the Baltic republics.

All three estates which belong to my grandfather and great-uncle still reflect the social diligence shared by the Baltic Germans and the Latvians, and it was this which made visiting them a moving experience.

The main rooms of the house at Mezotne are being restored as a museum, with their original paint and plaster work, by the agricultural research station based there. It is hoped that the house will attract many tourists.

At my grandfather's town of Smitene, the house has been split into flats, but the hospital, kindergarten, power station, brewery and railway line that he built are still standing, though not all are in use. The hospital has 135 beds, and is the best-run medical establishment that I

have seen in the Soviet Union. In the basement of the children's clinic is a small museum, with photographs and fine examples of local leather work and carpentry. The rooms were designed as a nuclear shelter, but seven years ago the hospital's director, Dr Janis Krumals, told me: "We decided it was all nonsense and we put it to some use."

The synagogue that my grandfather had built for the town — together with Protestant and Orthodox churches — survived the Nazis to be destroyed by the Communists. Such acts of vandalism stem in a way from the traditions of Russian peasant backwardness which the Baltic nobility was required to combat as the most honest and beautiful part of the Russian imperial ruling élite — though one which lacked the cultural brilliance of the Russian nobility, and was in many ways deeply boring when not boorish.

The Russian élite's lack of success in changing Russia was largely due to its having been perceived by the people as "exploiters", but there was also the fact

that many of the changes it was trying to introduce were seen as culturally alien by the mass of the population. It was not for nothing that peasants in some parts of the western borderlands used to refer to the Devil as "the German Doctor".

Russians too, however, have for some time been aware of how much was lost by the destruction of the pre-1917 educated classes, including the nobility. Another ancestor believed to be buried at Mezotne is General Prince Carl Christoph Lieven, Minister of Education under Tsar Nicholas I. Before this, he was Rector of the University of Dorpat (in Estonian, Tartu).

In a Soviet history of the university, written under Brezhnev, I found him described as follows: "Against the general background, Carl von Lieven may be considered a relatively moderate reactionary ... in the final analysis, his rectorship proved beneficial to the university, as thanks to his connections in St Petersburg, he managed considerably to improve its financial state." There are worse epitaphs.

Moscow's economic weapon poses new threat to Lithuania

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

AFTER the huge demonstration nine days ago in support of the Lithuanian government and independence, there can be little doubt that most of the Lithuanian population is solidly behind the Lithuanian administration in its defiance of Moscow.

This marks a change from the first fortnight or so after the declaration of independence, when suspicion of the motives of the Sajudis leadership and regret that Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the Communist leader, had not been elected president, led many Lithuanians to take a surprisingly apathetic stance towards independence.

Since then, however, every move that Moscow has made seems only to have strengthened the position of President Landsbergis and his colleagues. It seems unlikely that, unless near-starvation breaks out, the Lithuanian population would abandon its government. What is, however, entirely possible — and seems to be part of Moscow's plans — is that economic misery will lead to increased tension between the Lithuanians and the Russian and Polish minorities, most of whom are at the bottom of the economic pile here.

The use of this weapon by Moscow was anticipated long before the declaration of independence on March 11.

However, despite brave talk of importing oil from Sweden and Denmark, the government seems to have made no effective contingency plan — possibly because, given Lithuania's total dependence on

oil imports, there is no alternative but to seek refuge in Hungary. "Romanians who were once my friends stopped talking to me and I had to tell the children not to speak Hungarian on the street because I was afraid they would be attacked," she says.

Other refugees speak of constant mistreatment at the workplace and discrimination in public services. "My wife was treated like a dog in hospital and we lost our child because they did not give her the proper medicines," one man claims.

Some couples are so desperate to leave that they make the journey even though the wife is in advanced pregnancy.

Most of the refugees stay only about two weeks before finding accommodation and work because their skills are usually in demand, Mr Pataky says.

Because Hungary abrogated unilaterally an agreement with Romania barring dual citizenship the refugees can apply immediately for a Hungarian passport.

However, the surge of new arrivals has strained the centre's small staff and budget. A second centre in south-eastern Hungary is also full to capacity, and the overflow will be sent to a third site opening this week.

The refugees pose a vexing financial and political problem for Hungary's new Government, led by the centrist Democratic Forum which makes no secret of its nationalist ideology.

Mr Geza Jeszenszky, the Forum's foreign affairs adviser, who is tipped to become Foreign Minister, says Hungary has no "moral right" to stop the exodus and must continue to provide shelter and protection, but at the same time must refrain from interfering in Romanian affairs.

Pope urges caution

Lithuanian crisis. On Friday THE Pope, speaking to an estimated 90,000 people assembled in St Peter's Square for the Easter Mass yesterday, asked that "the aspirations of the Lithuanian nation be confirmed through a respectful and understanding dialogue" (Peter Bompari writes).

This call for caution is also a further indication that the Holy See is willing to mediate in possible solutions to the

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Hindus flee as conflict sharpens in Kashmir

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

TENS of thousands of Hindus have fled from the Muslim secessionist uprising in the Kashmir Valley, as the conflict there turns ominously into a battle between the powerful forces of Hindu and Muslim fundamentalism.

The exodus adds a new dimension to the separatist struggle, which never assumed religious overtones in its previous big eruptions in 1953 and 1964. Half the 120,000 Hindus have already gone, and the remainder are leaving.

Their flight has been accompanied by the imposition of Muslim fundamentalism by militant organizations that now control daily life in the valley. The traditional observance of liberal Sufism is over.

At the same time, Hindu hardliners are demanding that the special status granted to Kashmir when it joined the Indian union should be abolished. Non-Kashmiris, for example, are not allowed to own property in the state. The Indian Government is resisting the demand.

Talks of war with Pakistan continued over the weekend, although senior government officials in Islamabad and Delhi said privately that there was no immediate expectation of large-scale combat. Both sides, however, might find it necessary to mount a display of cross-border aggression to satisfy domestic political compulsions.

Cross-border incidents have occurred almost daily for years and are monitored by United Nations observers operating on both sides of the 1947 line of control that

War fear rises in Pakistan

From Zahid Hussain
Karachi

ALTHOUGH the tension between India and Pakistan has been mounting since February, after a crackdown on Kashmiri Muslim separatists, last week's threat by Mr V. P. Singh, the Indian Prime Minister, has brought the possibility of a fourth Indo-Pakistani war closer to reality.

Pakistan has put its troops on the long eastern border with India on high preparedness and exchanges of fire have become more frequent.

There is a looming fear here that Mr Singh's Government,

which has failed to contain the uprising in Indian-controlled

Kashmir, might unleash a war on Pakistan.

Pakistan's military officials are concerned about the reported concentration of Indian troops in Baraman and Sauran Garh in Rajasthan, 70 to 80 miles from Pakistan's Sind and southern Punjab province.

A Pakistani military official said that the Indian troops which were brought there in December on a military exercise should have been withdrawn. The official said that the continued concentration of Indian troops on Pakistan's "soft belly" causes serious concern for Islamabad.

Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad, however, believe that Mr Singh's threat of war against Pakistan was largely dictated by public pressure and was meant to satisfy his right-wing allies.

Although Pakistanis seem less concerned about a dispute between India or Kashmir, there is mounting pressure from the right wing and Islamic opposition parties on Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, to support the Kashmiri separatists.

Nepalese call on government to go

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THOUSANDS of Nepalese took to the streets yesterday to demand the immediate dismissal of the pro-King Government and the dissolution of the partyless *panchayat* system that has run the country for the past 30 years.

King Birendra is clearly heading for a serious confrontation with political parties as he struggles to hang on to some of his powers after agreeing eight days ago to allow multi-party democracy.

Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand, the Prime Minister, fled for cover after his car was stoned when he attempted to leave the Royal Nepal Academy building in Kathmandu. He had been in the building



Police in Tiananmen Square arrest a man who tried to mourn Hu Yaobang; he was later claimed to be 'mentally ill'.

Sole mourner for disgraced Hu arrested

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

NONE of his Communist Party colleagues mourned Hu Yaobang publicly on the first anniversary of his death yesterday. The one man who tried was taken away by police and declared mentally ill.

Tiananmen Square was open to the public, but the Memorial to the Revolutionary Heroes — which was last year decked with wreaths in homage to Hu within days of his death — was cordoned off by paramilitary police.

The national media yesterday made no mention of Hu, who was still a Politburo member when he died. He had been ousted in January, 1987, from his official position as General Secretary and his unofficial position as heir to Mr Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader.

Asked if he was afraid of arrest, he gestured at his luggage trolley, and said calmly: "I have come prepared. I have brought everything with me."

As if on cue, uniformed police apparently alerted by plainclothes police came over to lead him away. They scuffed, and the man from Guizhou protested repeatedly that he was a scientist. In an attempt to convince them, he opened his briefcase, which was full of mounted rock samples. After a few minutes he went calmly with the police, who later returned a confiscated film of the incident shot by Cable News Network (CNN), and declared the man "mentally ill".

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Moves to replace Peres as coalition schemes founder

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH Mr Shimon Peres, the veteran Labour Party leader, fast running out of time to form a left-of-centre Israeli Government, the prospects for breaking the stranglehold of the right on Israeli politics are looking slim.

"Peres' days as Labour leader may be numbered," one left-wing journalist said. He added: "If Peres cannot do it, we shall have to find somebody who can — and soon."

At Twentieth Century Books in Tel Aviv, and at the nearby Cafe Tamar, the atmosphere was one of almost unrelieved gloom at the weekend. Both are opposite the offices of Davar, the leading Israeli left-wing daily paper, and both are sounding boards of the Israeli left.

In the short term, the crisis arises because of the 60-60 deadlock in the Knesset (parliament). On Thursday the Labour Party leadership braved to meet to "decide on future steps" after the collapse of Mr Peres's attempts to gain a decisive majority over the right-wing Likud, led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, by recruiting a combination of Orthodox

religious parties and embittered defectors from Likud to add to existing support from left-wing groups.

None the less, the mounting campaign to "dump Peres" had already begun yesterday as Labour's coalition negotiating team, made up of senior former ministers, met to consider its strategy over the next few days.

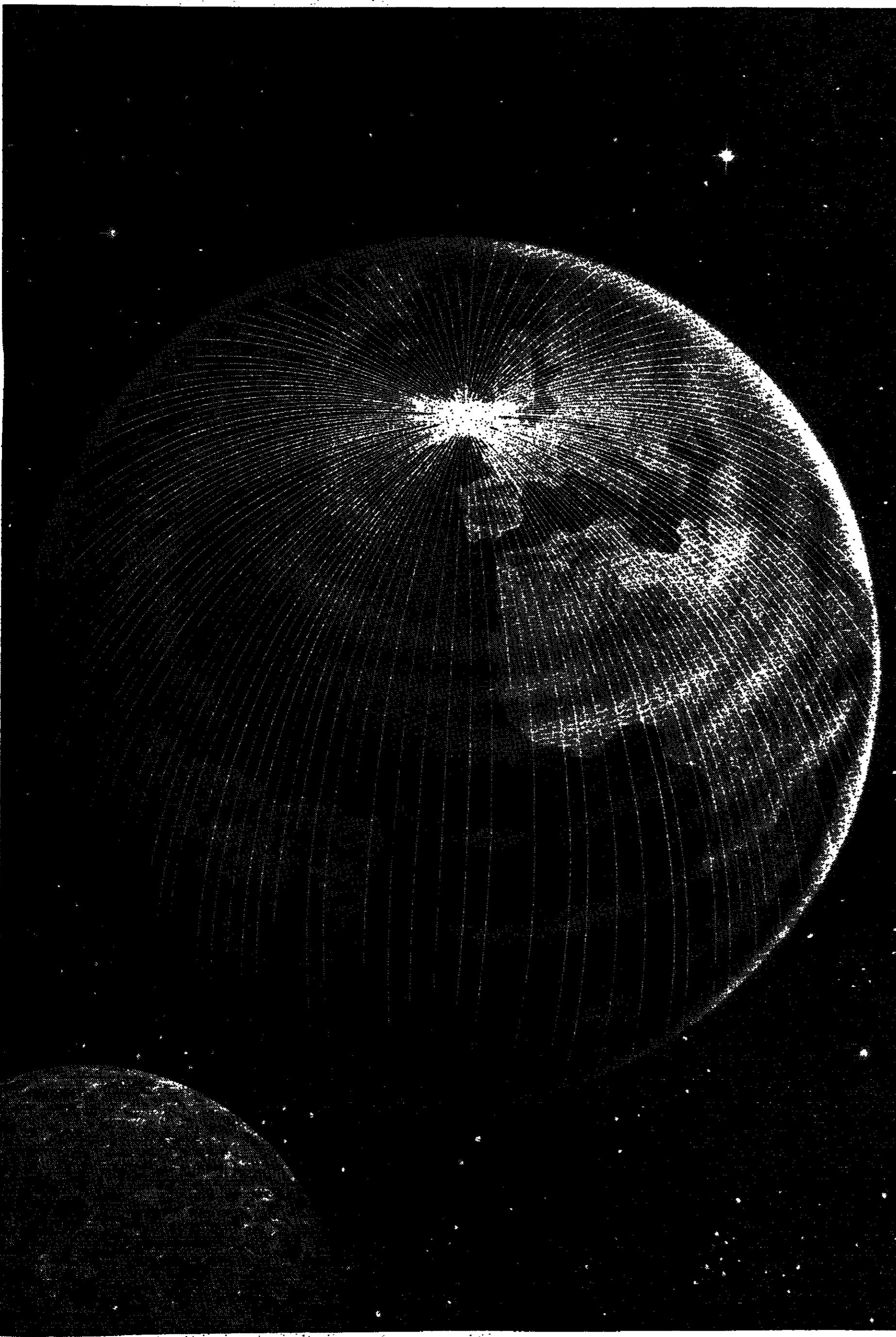
Likud and its allies have found support among many new immigrants to Israel, including both the Soviet Jews and Sephardic Jews from Arab countries.

In this prevailing right-wing atmosphere, it is easily forgotten that the left does still have influence. Yesterday, as Christian pilgrims from around the world celebrated Easter Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City, Peace Now, the left-wing Israeli organization, demonstrated in solidarity with Arab Christians against the attempt by 150 Jewish settlers to move into premises in the Christian quarter.

If Mr Peres is "dumped", the man most likely to succeed him is Mr Yitzhak Rabin, who according to some Labour sources has merely been biding his time.



A left-wing Israeli protesting at a Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's Christian quarter



Plea for Arab unity as Iraq defies Israelis

By Michael Knupe, Diplomatic Correspondent

IN THE wake of the controversy over its "Big Bertha" gun, Iraq is now claiming the capacity to deter an attack by Israel and making further moves to rally Arab support.

An Iraqi general was quoted yesterday as saying Israel would not risk attempting to repeat its 1981 attack, which destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, because Baghdad could now strike back.

"Israel will not dare to do that again, because we have the deterrent," Major-General Alwan Aboushi, an Air Force officer, was quoted as saying in the United Arab Emirates' magazine *Al-Watan*. The general did not disclose what the deterrent was but, in rapid succession in the past fortnight, Iraq has been caught attempting to import trigger devices that could detonate nuclear bombs, boasted of a chemical weapons capacity capable of destroying half of Israel, and been accused of trying to develop a long-range artillery system capable of launching satellites or weapons into low Earth orbit. It has also been accused of developing biological weapons.

Al-Watan quoted another senior officer, General Monzer Ibrahim, as saying that Iraq had succeeded in closing a gap in military technology between the Arabs and Israel. Iraq had entered the field of strategic weapons, he said without elaborating.

With concern heightened in the West and Israel over both Iraq's military build-up and its belligerent stance, the move to intensify Arab support was made by Mr Sadi Mehdi Saleh, the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, who said invitations had been sent to members of all Arab parliaments — including its long-standing rival Syria — to a meeting in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Mr Saleh said that the meeting would discuss "challenges posed by Israeli threats to Iraq's scientific and technical advancement". A unified Arab position was necessary to face up to what he called the challenges to Iraq's national security and attempts to interfere in its internal affairs.

To boost patriotic fervour, meetings of compliant political parties, professional organizations and trade unions have been called this

week to focus attention on the issue and Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, has called for an Arab summit "to define the required measures to counter Jewish immigration into the occupied territory and Israeli threats against Iraq and the Arab nation."

Iraq's military potential has become the focus of international concern over the proliferation of chemical, biological and missile technology in the Middle East.

Last week NBC television news quoted US intelligence sources as saying that Iraq had developed powerful biological weapons. They said that Iraq was using an ultra-modern plant equipped with technology from West Europe to make weapons from anthrax, typhoid and cholera bacteria and viruses.

As a result of the Gulf War and with the assistance of Egypt, Iraq has established a considerable armaments industry of its own. It has extended the range of its Soviet-supplied Scud B ballistic missiles and in January displayed 12 of them.

In December it launched a three-stage rocket and tested two missiles with a range of 1,200 miles. Iraq has a million men under arms with 850,000 paramilitary reserves to call upon. It has 5,500 main battle tanks and 1,000 armoured infantry fighting vehicles. The Iraqi Air Force has two squadrons of bombers and 17 squadrons of fighters.

Israel is widely believed to have a nuclear capability which it could deliver with its Jericho 2 surface-to-surface missiles which have a range of 1,000 miles and its Jericho 1 missiles which have a 270-mile range.



Mr Tariq Aziz: Proposal to hold an Arab summit

Americans laud killer of black subway mugger

From Charles Bremner, New York

NEW YORK detectives searched in vain over the weekend for a middle-aged white man who shot dead one of a pack of black subway train robbers, an action that has earned him instant status as folk hero and private praise from the police.

The shooting beneath the streets of Brooklyn was the third this year in which a subway passenger has killed a robber, but the apparent justice of the act has prompted an outpouring of satisfaction from a public grown weary of the unprecedented violence now reigning in the underground system.

There was no ambiguity this time, unlike the two earlier cases this year — in which blacks killed blacks in less than clear circumstances — and unlike the case of Mr Bernhard Goetz, the celebrated "subway vigilante", who shot three youths in 1984 and provoked a furor about racism.

As witnesses described it, a grey-haired man in a trench-coat boarded the Number Four train at 10.30pm on Thursday as it was leaving Brooklyn to cross into Manhattan. Fourteen young men, high on marijuana and drinking brandy, singled him out as an easy target. Ricky Pickett, their leader, aged 25, shouted: "I'm going shopping. This one is for real."

He threw the man on the floor. He and his friends, wielding a razor and possibly a gun, kicked him and beat him, took his wallet and then picked him up and hurled him on to a seat. The man then reached into his waistband, pulled out a pistol, and shot Pickett three times through the heart. He alighted at the next station and calmly walked away before anyone had alerted the drivers.

Police reported that Pickett was a well-known mugger with a long record of armed robbery who was on bail awaiting trial for an arrest in February. One of the gang, a 17-year-old, was arrested yesterday.

"Who could blame you?" screamed the banner headline in the *Daily News*. "The guy who fought back" was the *Newsday* version. On the television, in the radio phone-ins,

in the coffee shops and subway stations over the weekend, the comment was unanimous: "The guy deserved it ... I would have liked to do the same."

Unlike the Goetz case, where the white man attacked the black youths after they had only threatened him, there has been no outcry over racism. "In New York a white man shot and killed a black man on the subway and there was no rage," *Newsday* said yesterday. "For the moment, fear of crime brought all together. A sad irony, but true."

About two dozen violent robberies are committed every day on the subway system. Murder has become common as the overall rate in the city has reached a record of seven a day. Police say pack attacks have become the fashion in recent months as youths have grown increasingly bold and desperate under the influence of "crack" cocaine.

There have been two such gangs reported per day so far this year.

Police are appealing to the man to come forward, but few expect him to do so, given the likelihood that his gun was unlicensed. Unlike much of America, carrying an unregistered gun is a serious offence in New York City.

Mr Goetz, although acquitted of the attempted murder charge, was sentenced to a year for possession of a weapon and served nine months of his time.

Mr Charles Hynes, the District Attorney, has recently promised harsh treatment for anyone carrying an illegal gun. But as the *Daily News* commented yesterday, "In any other kind of case, that sounds pretty nice. If the gun comes up illegal and Hynes indicts this fellow, the citizenry might just run the DA out of town."

Police involved in the case spoke admiringly of the *sang-froid* of the mugging victim as he turned the tables on his attackers. Some speculated that the professional technique he displayed with the pistol indicated that he may have been a former officer or a security man, although those categories are usually allowed to carry weapons.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

This column has always prided itself on its familiarity with that no-man's land where sport meets art. I therefore introduce W.S. Cameron of Guyana — a serious contender for Player of the Series as the final Test between England and West Indies draws to a close — in a different persona. In a poem that begins: "Wham bam ting", he writes:

We Saturday holiday Sunday cricket calypso pan
And table too not on a minor scale

This poem, enigmatic to say the least, was distributed by Cameron to anyone in the bar who would accept a copy. He was thrown out, came back, then in quick succession had a terrible row and a beer with the official.

Cricket football athletics calypso Pan and table...

All we must carry north coke case And Wight cup cricket more popular and clamorous for allwe

Than Test cricket for alas it's Guyana... A see ping ping pee pee Ole York and London we don't miss you boy

This Guyana is the latest dot of the world. He urges us to "look for book titled Guyana Cultural Evolution". I certainly shall

Really, the journos who follow cricket matches these days do nothing but upset the cricketers. Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, has made dramatic headlines by not one, but two threatening outbursts to a *Daily Express* correspondent, my friend James Lawton, who thereby becomes another promising candidate for Man of the Series. Richards is a frightening fellow not famous for his self-control. "He told me to stop looking at his eyes," said Lawton. "I consider that a sort of triumph."

The routine pitch invasions that greet big moments for the West Indies here are enlivened by an extraordinary fellow with blond dreadlocks, a large black beard, iridescent blue socks, and high-heeled shoes. He performs a ritual headstand in the middle of the pitch at the climax of every incursion. This professional character goes by the name of Gravency. All the same, that family.

I hear that Harold Ballard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leaf ice hockey team and renowned throughout North America for his redness, has died aged 86. The president of the National Hockey League, John Ziegler, once described him as an "original, colourful and challenging individual". Ballard, in response, described Ziegler as "a know-nothing skinner".

There is scarcely any athlete anywhere without superstition — for them, the matter of putting one boot on before the other assumes cosmic importance. Wade Boggs, of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, is probably world champion. Before



Boggs: nothing to chance

every home game, he eats chicken at 3pm; ends fielding practice by stepping on third, second and first base, in that order; takes two steps in the first base coaching box and then four steps back to the players' dug-out; tosses a ball against a wall; emerges on to the field at 7.17 exactly; and draws a Hebrew symbol in the batter's box. "Everybody has a routine," he said. "Mine just takes five hours."

Iwould like to salute rugby referee Gary Jones for his recent spectacular feat of despatching three players to the sin bin and then sending off one of his linesmen for "constantly quibbling" with his rulings. Jones called off the match, between Briton Ferry and Furnace United in west Glamorgan, 15 minutes into the second half. "I had no alternative," he said. "There was total disregard for my decisions." Bill Williams of Briton Ferry said: "It was not a dirty game." His side was leading 18-3 when they all took an early bath.

My racing snout, denied a possible Grand National coup when Sir Merlin unseated his rider eight fences from home, has been stung into action on hearing that Kevan Leason, who retired six years ago after riding more than 300 winners, has had a sex change operation and is now known as Karen. He rang the Jockey Club and asked how it would react if Mrs Leason decided to return to racing and reapply for a licence. Long pause for thought, then: "I think we would have to refer the matter to our resident doctor."

Moscow
President Gorbachov's council of senior advisers has already taken over the real decision-making on issues such as Lithuania and economic reform. The Politburo, for decades the power base of the ruling Communist Party, finds itself shunted into the sidelines.

In many ways the Presidential Council is like a US cabinet: the president has included his ablest politicians, and those who control the main policy fields — defence, the economy, home and foreign affairs. But he has also added people little versed in politics whose influence is vital in ensuring broad acceptance of his policies: writers, environmental campaigners, trade union leaders, representatives of ethnic minorities. Each member of the 16-man council is an authority in his particular field, and none is a political yes-man. Mr Gorbachov clearly hopes their debates and disagreements will be creative.

There are six key figures, four of whom would traditionally be in any cabinet: Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister; Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister; Dmitry Yazov, defence minister; and Vadim Bakatin, minister of home affairs. The fifth, Aleksandr Yakovlev, is one of Mr

Gorbachov's most trusted ideological allies, a man who has pioneered reform in party thinking, especially on foreign policy, and who is a vital link between the old party power base and the new slimline "cabinet".

The sixth man, Vladimir Kravchikov, is head of the KGB. His awesome task is to transform this still feared and intrusive organization from a hydra-headed apparatus of dictatorship to a regular security-cum-police force firmly under the rule of law.

Ryzhkov is a key figure in the move to a market economy. As chairman of the Council of Ministers, he has to oversee the break-up of the huge bureaucracies now controlling industry and a drastic slimming down of the council. To many, he has been a disappointment: a man who stepped back from bold action last autumn and who appears anxious to preserve what he can of the old bureaucracy under another name.

But his caution is balanced by a more radical advocate of reform, Dr Stanislav Shatalin, a member of the Academy of Sciences, who has the reputation of a maverick economist for his outspoken criticism of conventional Soviet practices. He advocates an immediate move to a full market system.

Ryzhkov and Shatalin are probably in opposite corners on how to implement reforms which the council has already agreed cannot be delayed. Sharp disagreement emerged when it discussed the matter on Saturday. A likely supporter of the go-slow school is Yevgeny Yarin, a hardline trade union leader who knows well that a sharp rise in prices will cause bitter resentment among workers. His conservative views appear to be sharply at odds with those of Mr Gorbachov, who has made economic reform his priority. But despite years of passivity, the trade unions could prove powerful enemies; by

including Yarin, he may hope to control worker opposition.

Other members also appear to be chosen because of the powerful constituencies they represent. Valentin Raspin, a well-known writer who lives in Siberia, is not a party member and has no direct political experience. But he is a powerful voice for Russian nationalism, which commands a huge and emotional following. His campaign on the environment and efforts to preserve Lake Baikal as well as ancient monuments, and his calls for the revival of traditional village values, all strike a resonant cord.

Another writer, Chingiz Aitmatov, is also a deputy to the Supreme Soviet. A brave campaigner against Stalinism in the Brezhnev era, he is increasingly known and respected overseas. Although he writes in Russian, he is from Kirghizia, and his inclusion conveniently gives representation to the populous area of Muslim Central Asia. He

is chairman of the commission on nationalities, languages and culture. Similarly, Vadim Bakatin, the interior minister, is also deeply involved in dealing with inflamed national passions and quelling recurrent bouts of ethnic violence.

Mr Gorbachov, who sees the Supreme Soviet as a vital part of his government's structure, has included several of its leading members. Yevgeny Primakov, a former journalist, headed the prestigious Institute of Economics and World Relations, one of the top liberal think-tanks in Moscow, and was a member of the party's central committee before being elected a deputy to the Supreme Soviet last year. As the first president of that body, he played a vital role in transforming it from a passive rubber-stamp to an active parliamentary chamber.

Yuri Osipyan, a member of the Academy of Sciences and prominent physicist, is also a people's deputy, as is Valeri

Boldin, a central committee member who has been rebuilding party ideology. Grigori Revzenko, a Ukrainian, is a people's deputy and member of the Supreme Soviet, and since 1986 has been a member of the party commission on international affairs. And Albert Kavuls, a Latvian, is a people's deputy who can represent Baltic sentiment in the highest Kremlin council. He is also, conveniently, an agricultural expert, an area in which Mr Gorbachov's reforms will be severely tested.

Yuri Matyukov, a deputy prime minister and candidate Politburo member, holds the vital post of chairman of the state planning committee — still one of the key levers of power in the Soviet Union. But, like Yakovlev, his real power base now is as a member of the Presidential Council.

It is significant that Yakovlev, once an exchange student at Columbia University and for 10 years Soviet ambassador to Canada before being rapidly promoted by Gorbachov, was the man who talked to the Lithuanian delegation which tried to open negotiations here last week. He was officially described then not as a Politburo member, but as a member of the Presidential Council.

Michael Binyon on the new men mapping Soviet policies

Gorbachov's Oval Office

Come off it Kylie — and Glenda too

Bernard Levin, detecting a whiff of fanaticism, urges two renowned scolds to mind their own showbiz

Alas, it is far too late for legislation making it a criminal offence, punishable by transportation, for any actor or actress to stand for Parliament; true, Andrew Faulds, MP, cannot entirely disguise his thespian origins, for all that he played the Trojan Horse and thus started it all, but he is a misery fellow, and anyway has always given the impression that though acting is an enjoyable way of earning a living it is not really serious. No one, however, could ever imagine Miss Jackson being merry, or failing to be serious, either on the stage or the hustings. And that the legislation I yearn for is necessary can be demonstrated by what may have been the very first words she uttered after her nomination as prospective candidate for Hampstead: Kingsley Amis having been mentioned, she delivered herself of the profoundly considered opinion that he is a fascist, and, shortly afterwards, that nurses are underpaid.

That, apparently, is the highest level of political understanding and intelligence to which Miss Jackson can aspire; parliamentary debates, if she wins, will hardly be terrifically exciting occasions. Yet she is a very good actress, and in that capacity has thrilled very many thousands, including me. Miss Jackson's trouble is in essence the same as Miss Minogue's; she is one of nature's scolds, and moreover without the excuse of Miss Minogue's youthful innocence of the workings of the market.

Unfortunately, the ducking stool (the traditional punishment for scolds) was abolished some years ago under pressure from penal reform organizations, and the scolds have forgotten that they are scolds, with the lamentable consequences we see all round, not least in a tremendous stage presence bringing Cleopatra or Heda Gabler to life, and a pretty young girl who can fill and thrill a crowded Wembley Stadium both becoming, off-stage, the dreamiest of busybodies. Oh, reform it altogether!

Enough blankets to plug the hole in the ozone layer?

It seems to me much more likely that she heard of the dangers of plastic cups about three weeks ago, and with the impetuosity of youth decided to do her bit, the dangers of smoking she presumably came upon a little earlier. But what she has not yet learned is that it might be a very good idea for her to listen, instead of emitting a series of edictive howls about smoking and plastic cups, for the very good reason that by doing so she might discover what she is talking about.

I shall do her the credit of believing that she is not so silly as to be taken in by press agents, whose prose tends in these matters to fall not far short, if at all, of a claim that the client can only levitate at will, but also walk on water, and indeed both at once. But for her to start throwing her slender weight with ours, scurrying to collect

It would be told that smoking, except in certain clearly-marked areas (like the downstairs section of London buses), is not illegal in Britain. There are a considerable number of people here who think it should be, and are striving day and night to bring about the consummation of their prayers and their work, only waiting for its enactment to start a campaign which will ultimately make all alcoholic drink criminal too. Some of these are much worse prigs than she is, but so far they have not prevailed, and there is a useful precept which suggests that if something is not forbidden by law, it should not in general be forbidden by nosy parkers.

My point, however, is that we have quite enough home-grown wowsers to deal with; many people (I am one), who do not smoke but are tired of the bullying and general unpleasantness of the wowsers and their campaigning, might well take

It would like to salute rugby referee Gary Jones for his recent spectacular feat of despatching three players to the sin bin and then sending off one of his linesmen for "constantly quibbling" with his rulings. Jones called off the match, between Briton Ferry and Furnace United in west Glamorgan, 15 minutes into the second half. "I had no alternative," he said. "There was total disregard for my decisions." Bill Williams of Briton Ferry said: "It was not a dirty game." His side was leading 18-3 when they all took an early bath.

My racing snout, denied a possible Grand National coup when Sir Merlin unseated his rider eight fences from home, has been stung into action on hearing that Kevan Leason, who retired six years ago after riding more than 300 winners, has had a sex change operation and is now known as Karen. He rang the Jockey Club and asked how it would react if Mrs Leason decided to return to racing and reapply for a licence. Long pause for thought, then: "I think we would have to refer the matter to our resident doctor."

SOME YEARS ago it was my job to answer letters sent to Mrs Thatcher when she was Opposition leader. Usually, the flow of correspondence was quite steady, varying only a little — and predictably — with the weather. A many weekend was worth about 300 letters proposing alternatives to the domestic rating system.

I often wonder if the editor of the *Daily Mail* knew what trouble he caused me when his newspaper organized a competition in which readers were invited to set their thoughts — directed either to the prime minister (Mr Callaghan) or Mrs Thatcher — into a verse which could be sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Thousands of readers did, and many hundreds sent copies to Mrs T herself. She had to reply.

Those were the early days of "automatic" typewriters, and we had one, newly purchased. So I showed this to Mrs Thatcher. I composed a standard acknowledgement which we used for every verse we received. It went like this:

*Working through our mailbag,
— chanced upon your note.
Full of admiration
For the lines you wrote.
Others, too, have written;
To them all we've said:
"Many thanks for all your poems;
One thing more we'd add:
Should you have — besides this hobby —
Yet more time to spare,
Why not join the Party?
Gifts like yours are rare!"*

hope not. It received, at any rate, a measure of critical acclaim from other party hacks. It was my first, and only, attempt at composing hymns.

Until yesterday morning. All weekend, the newspapers have been full of the controversy over the proposed removal of the middle verse from our National Anthem. Apparently it is considered too jingoistic, and there are people who want to replace it with something which better reflects the spirit of our age.

But what would that be? Does our age have a "spirit", as the Victorian age did? Surely political philosophies these days have become too divergent to be

And, finally, we have the Greens, who have asked me to point out that the appellation "God" leaves unresolved the question of whether He, She, or They exist — and that this is a matter which the leadership has yet to discuss.

*God save our spacious green Environmental scene,
And send us free From Satan's nuclear game,
Nitrate and toxic shame;
Let us deserve the name "Ozone friendly"!*

Anthem choices for them and us



MATTHEW PARRIS

united by any common sentiment that was more than banal. So, of course, we shall end up with something banal. But wouldn't it be better to celebrate our differences, rather than paper over

them, by providing alternative middle verses, to be chosen according to the political taste of the singer?

Here, to be sung to the tune of "God Save the Queen", are five proposals. The first is for worshippers on the left.

*Give us the strength to smash
Racist and sexist trash —
The people's fight!
Politicize the mass!*

*Power to the underclass!
Nationalize British Gas!*

Workers, unite!

Some Labour MPs could subscribe to that, but many — of the ascendant "Lego" tendency — will prefer something more centrist. They could join the Liberal

Democrats and Tory "wets" in singing the following:

Careers, Lord, let us be.

In the community;

Help us to choose.

Free crèches, nationwide.

Span the North/South divide.

North, South, East, West,

provide

Disabled loos.

Those on the right might perhaps go for this:

Beacons of excellence.

Decency, common-sense

Lord, give us hope.

Flog, bitch, let scroungers swing.

Private everything!

With the Home Counties, sing

Bring back the rope!

Where do the Greens and the SDP fit in? The SDP's ideology is less apparent than the personality of their leader. So, for them:

Right Hon D Anthony Llewelyn Owen MP

Is our party.

Dr and statesman he,

ex-foreign secretary

He is the SDP

And we are he.

And, finally, we have the Greens, who have asked me to point out that the appellation "God"

leaves unresolved the question of whether He, She, or They exist — and that this is a matter which the leadership has yet to discuss.

God save our spacious green Environmental scene,

And send us free From Satan's nuclear game,

Nitrate and toxic shame;

Let us deserve the name "Ozone friendly"!



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

MR MANDELA'S BANK HOLIDAY

Nelson Mandela is welcome in Britain today. He has joined that rare band of individuals who have become symbols of political freedom while in captivity and survived to carry their message in liberty. For a moment, we set aside *realpolitik* and acknowledge that symbolism.

Britain has long given sanctuary to fighters for freedom. On occasion, that welcome has seemed disproportionate — such as that given to Garibaldi in 1864 and to Gandhi in 1931. A Wembley pop concert may seem a bizarre contribution to the struggle for black rights in South Africa. But art too has its celebration to offer. When Solzhenitsyn left Russia in 1974 and Sharansky in 1986, they were landed not only as intellectuals but as custodians of political freedom. If we cannot occasionally allow hope a modest triumph over cynicism, we are indeed poor in spirit. As a symbol, Mr Mandela is an inspiration to millions.

Behind the symbol, however, stands the man. And here the struggle between hope and, at best, scepticism is more tangled. Mr Mandela has not disappointed his admirers in his nine weeks of freedom. He has had to establish some authority over the bickering internal and external factions of the African National Congress. He has had to do this while keeping faith with all those at home and abroad who simply want to see him and believe in him. He has had little or no organisation behind him.

Despite some clever individuals within its ranks, the ANC is still steeped in neo-Stalinist *nativism* and seems increasingly lost without its East German and Soviet backers. As Mr Mandela found in his ill-fated attempt to parley with the Nand faction fighters early this month, black politics on the ground in South Africa is a messy and murderous business. The townships of Pietermaritzburg must have seemed far indeed from the garden parties of Lusaka and the smart hotels of Stockholm — or even from the leadership-in-waiting of Pollsmoor prison.

Through all this, Mr Mandela has kept his dignity and apparent thoughtfulness. Yesterday, he acted promptly to expose one of the more unpleasant skeletons in the ANC

cupboard, the behaviour of some of its "training camp" cadres. While the Swedish government and the British Labour party, in their eulogies of the ANC (and of Swapo before it), turned a blind eye to widely rumoured atrocities, Mr Mandela knows that moral authority is won by tough action not vacuous words.

His failure to meet Mrs Thatcher falls into the category of canny pragmatism. Mr Mandela knows that his release, while certainly a political gamble, was a sign of some strength on the part of the South African leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and one that had little to do with the international sanctions campaign to which Mrs Thatcher was so opposed. Of all overseas leaders, she and her ambassador in Pretoria, Sir Robin Renwick, were probably the most entitled to claim a modicum of credit for the eventual release decision. Instead she gets a snub, while those who demanded she "do something about Mandela" — as if Britain still ruled that continent — hire a stadium to gloat at her discomfiture. But governments must always suffer thus. Contempt is the one consolation of opposition.

For Mr Mandela, the easy part is now over. He must go back to a much-vaunted "negotiating process" whose outcome is desperately uncertain. He must lead the ANC out of its barren, hierarchical Marxism and teach it that modern Africa needs economic realism as much as it needs political advance. He must reach some accord with the ANC's opponents in Inkatha. He must find in South Africa's rudimentary local democracy some legitimacy for himself and his exiled colleagues. He must do all this against the certainty of white backlash and of black bitterness at the slowness of political and economic progress. Nor does he have much time. He is 72 and there are hotter heads waiting to try his shoes.

Thousands will troop home from Wembley tonight filled with a warm glow of moral self-righteousness. For them, all these concerns will seem comfortably far away. Not so for Mr Mandela. He must take the symbol and test it in the fire. He truly deserves our sympathy.

McLUHAN'S OLD CLOTHES

The performance of the media covering Mrs Thatcher's Bermuda meeting with President Bush has had some seasoned British observers merrily. The scene had been set by a flood of articles and television reports from London-based correspondents. Their tone was apocalyptic. Those who had written most admiringly of the Iron Lady during the Reagan years now found a script that was entirely new, taking its cue not from some deeply observed change in the British political economy, but from two highly teleserial events, the Trafalgar Square riot and the sit-in at Strangeways jail.

Newswise promptly spoke of the "belligerence of a growing underclass". *The Wall Street Journal* questioned the Prime Minister's political relevance. Network newscasts were awash with sound bites and clips of fire and mayhem. Britain seemed up in arms. Nor was America the only source of hyperbole. Europe, waiting for ten years to get its own back on *La Dame de Fer*, set about her with a vengeance.

Le Monde said that the riots were "the price that Britain has to pay" for Thatcherism. *Die Welt* remarked that "England's society has been made violent as a consequence of *laissez-faire*", a strange accusation from West Germany. Iron ladies were rusting and suffering metal fatigue. The old stereotype was gleefully upended.

There is no surprise about this. Political image-making is about taking the rough with the smooth and hoping the smooth comes out on top. What is disturbing is that the deluge of adverse publicity for Britain and its leader has been occasioned not by falling opinion polls, rising inflation or by-election defeats. Such mundane events have claimed little attention from far-distant editors. What has sent Mrs Thatcher's plight to the top of the schedule is sheer violence, the ever-potent footage of brick-busting hooligans and burning buildings. It is this that has validated the story of declining popularity. It is not that enables a foreign correspondent to say to his boss, "You see, I told you so!" and his boss to reply, "Yes, great story!" Blood is the greatest news editor.

America, of course, has been the victim of this, too. Ask the average Briton about New York and you will hear a tale of drug-crazed murderers roaming free through subway, street and school playground alike. American politics is drenched in corruption, its law and order is in disarray and, as for its medical services, Britain too suffers under the tyranny of the newsreel clip.

Some newspapermen like to believe that the written word has a more balanced approach than dominated by the requirement of good pictures to hold up the story. But this is naive. We have all been residents in McLuhan's global village for long enough to know that the more instant the telecommunication round the world, the more uniform editorial judgements are likely to be. The British backdrop to the Bermuda summit will look much the same whether on the cocktail circuit of Washington DC, in the suburbs of Kiev or in a village cafe in the Auvergne. To them all, "Mrs Thatcher's Britain" is coming apart at the seams: look at Trafalgar Square and the rooftop at Strangeways.

It must be counted a strength of the British Prime Minister (and the despair of many of her party advisers) that she has done so little over the years to counteract such image vulnerability. Whatever may be thought of her policies, she has remained more or less true to her earliest refashioning at the hands of her mid-1970s publicists. She clearly has little intention of redoing their work. There is unlikely to be much change to the habits of a prime ministerial lifetime.

Francis Bacon remained philosophical on this subject to the end: "For my name and memory," he wrote in his will in 1625, "I leave it to men's charitable speeches, and to foreign nations, and the next ages." Mrs Thatcher figures in precious few charitable speeches these days, and her treatment by foreigners is scarcely generous. But media opinion is a fickle god. And she can always look to "the next ages" for comfort.

YEAR OF THE LADYBIRD

"Your house is on fire, Mother Ladybird" scolds Mrs Thomasina Tittemouse. "Fly away home to your children." Beaure Pouter's house-pride little heroine, sweeping away her uninvited guests, must be having a hard time of it this year. Two mild winters have increased the ladybird population a hundredfold. There has been nothing like it since the long hot summer of '76.

Whether this will spoil the insect's glowing image is a moot point. So far its voracious appetite for greenfly has made it an ally of all mankind. They have been used in biological control programmes and Americans can now buy them in garden centres as organic pest destroyers for their flowerbeds. The name is short for "Our Lady's bird (or beetle)" which suggests a long history of veneration.

When the Nature Conservancy Council announced last month that the 13-spotted variety had died out (a casualty of disappearing wetlands) the news was widely reported, despite the fact that 42 varieties remain. Few realized that ladybirds come in different colours, can have from between two and 24 spots (the most common has seven) and vary significantly in size.

In Yorkshire they are sometimes known as cuscow ladies and in parts of Sussex as Bishop Barnabees. One presumes that a Bishop of Chichester long ago had a bright vermillion back with large black spots. There is even an old Sussex rhyme:

Bishop, Bishop Barnabee
Tell me when I'll married be
If it be tomorrow day
Spread thy wings and fly away.

Public display of works of art

From the Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has proposed permitting private buyers to match the prices offered by overseas buyers for notable works of art which have been temporarily held back from export. Previously, only museums and galleries have been permitted to buy such important works by matching the prices offered by overseas buyers, the principle being that notable works of art should be available for public display.

In the House of Lords last week Lord Hesketh said that the offer made by the Barclay brothers for Canova's "The Three Graces" was not made to the Government, but to the owners, and that it was therefore for them to decide whether the Barclays' proposal to lend the sculpture for public display was acceptable.

These words would seem to imply that the Government has no interest or say in what happens to art held back from export. Surely the essential principle of public access should be maintained, and not just for 20 years but for future generations as well. And surely, if a work of art is considered so important that an export licence is refused, a buyer in this country should provide guarantees of proper conservation?

These are two of the conditions which the National Art Collections Fund recommended to the secretary of state be laid on any private buyer of an export-stopped work of art. However, problems may arise with the legal enforceability of such conditions, especially over an extended period of time, and there are widespread doubts as to the practicability of the secretary of state's proposals.

In the case of "The Three Graces" changing the rules in the midst of a case cannot be recommended. Since we have an offer from Lord Rothschild which would safeguard this work of art for the nation, in whichever public collection the Museum and Galleries Commission thought most appropriate, why are we rushing to establish such a dangerous precedent without adequate time to work out its consequence?

As to the future, the imaginative tax concessions announced by the Government should encourage private benefactors to help museums to buy the works of art they need. If private owners were also able to obtain tax concessions upon gifts of works of art to public collections, then we might see some alleviation of the present crisis over acquisitions by our museums and galleries.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1.
April 11.

War horses

From Mrs Carolyn Berkeley

Sir, Following Mrs Bates' suggestion (April 4) that it might be suitable to reunite Marengo and his saddle at the war horse exhibition at the National Army Museum, could I suggest also reuniting Marengo with his hooves. Two are in the possession of the Guards, mounted in silver and used as snuff mills. These were presented by a descendant of J. J. Angerstein, founder of the National Gallery, who possessed Marengo after his arrival in England. What I do not know is the name of the benefactor who "found Marengo wandering on the field of Waterloo".

Yours faithfully,
CAROLYN BERKELEY,
49 Arden Road, N3.

From Mr J. R. Miller

Sir, It would be unwise to attach too much authenticity to the portrait of Napoleon and his horse shown in the edition of March 29. Miserere had scant opportunity to produce such a work at first hand, for he was not born until 1815. In order to portray his idol, this Napoleonophile bought a suitable horse on which he himself posed, appropriately dressed, before a mirror. The well-known painting of the 1812 retreat was produced using this device. So too, presumably, was the portrait shown in your feature.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MILLER,
8 Mellerstain,
Gordon, Berwickshire.

Measure for measure

From Mr Malcolm Brown

Sir, Your correspondent Mrs Parker (April 7) has made a valid point about the British hesitation in adopting the metric system now used by most of the world. Some Imperial units, such as the mile, may not be replaced for a while and will continue to be used.

Today, virtually every petrol pump in the UK dispenses in litres. Yet, at the last Budget, price changes were announced in "pence per gallon". On ITV's Oracle teletext the equivalent cost of fuel on the Continent is in "pounds per gallon". I doubt that in many of these countries the "gallon" measures have ever been used. To arrive at these costs requires two conversions, one for currency and another for volume, thereby doubling the scope for error.

Car manufacturers now need to give thought to quoting fuel consumption data in "miles per litre" in place of the old "mpg". This is preferable to using the Continental "litres per 100 kilometres" which does not relate to the unit of distance we use, and again involves unnecessary calculation.

How to treat crime and the culprits

From his Honour Judge James W. Rant, QC

Sir, Mr Heaton-Armstrong ("Pack the judges off to jail", The Law, April 10) appears not to understand that those who are responsible for sentencing offenders do not live in ivory towers. We all read the newspapers, watch television, read social inquiry reports, and we all listen to counsel when they mitigate.

Most of us during years of practice in criminal law have visited prisons regularly. We are all therefore fully aware of current custodial conditions, whether we now visit the institutions in question or not. It is in any event irrelevant to the problem of dealing with offenders to say that judges are not sufficiently aware of the difficulties of detaining criminals.

It is all very well to downgrade certain crimes by talking euphemistically of "acquisitive offences": what of the victims, over whom occasional crocodile tears are shed, but whose interests we have to respect? What explanation does Mr Heaton-Armstrong suggest should be given to a householder whose privacy has been violated by a burglar, dealt with by "punishment in the community", and who is undeterred by it?

What are we supposed to do with a young man who persistently breaks into other people's cars and steals whatever he can lay his hands on after every possible alternative has already been tried?

There is, in the end, no way than to lock up those who will not and do not respond to non-custodial measures, albeit for short periods, so as to protect decent, honest and hardworking members of society. This unpleasant truth has to be faced daily by every sentencing tribunal in the country.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES W. RANT,

Central Criminal Court,

Old Bailey, EC4.

From Professor Peter Campbell

Sir, When ministers and Parliament consider the lessons of Strangeways, with particular reference to the problems of sex offenders, they should deal with the fact that some men are in prison because the law still criminalizes sexual acts between males in various circumstances in which similar heterosexual behaviour is not criminal — for example the age of consent for homosexual acts is 21 while for heterosexual acts it is 16.

In consequence every year some

Foreign flavours on the table

From Mr J. E. T. Shirley

Sir, As a commercial grower, I share Mrs Audrey Tait's dilemma (April 10) and offer the explanations that the countries she mentions as being sources of salad produce hold a considerable competitive edge on the UK.

For example, growers in The Netherlands are able to purchase their fuel for glasshouse heating at 50 per cent less than those in the UK. They have a Government that encourages and stimulates horticulture, unlike that of the UK.

The Netherlands, Germany, France and, in fact, all other EC countries actively encourage horticulture and, in particular, Spain, benefits from free solar energy. Furthermore, interest rates are roughly half of those in the UK. Investment in horticulture is actively encouraged.

The future for English horticulture is extremely bleak. Those entering horticultural college and graduating, wanting to take up growing as a career, will find that there is a current wave of "green hysteria" sweeping the UK and a deterrent against building glasshouses, so, in consequence, more and more produce will continue to be imported.

Yours sincerely,
J. E. T. SHIRLEY,
Victorian Nursery Gardens,
Challock, nr Ashford,
Kent.

April 11.

From Dr Richard Wyndham

Sir, The announcement that Lord Justice Woolf is to hold an inquiry into the Strangeways riot fills me with exasperation. We had judicial inquiries following riots at Peterhead and Winchester prisons and at Risley remand centre. Sir, we know fairly well why prisoners riot in our overcrowded and disgusting prisons. Minute details of the particular spark which sets off this or that tinder box are irrelevant. What is needed is government action, not another procrastinating judicial gavotte.

Let us have no more expensive and time-wasting judicial inquiries. The stories are all the same, only the names and dates need altering. The remedies are also well-known but require hard decisions to be taken and public money to be spent.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WYNDHAM,
Bramfield House,
Barford Road,
Marlingford, Norfolk.

From Mrs Rosemary Carter

Sir, Last weekend I made a salad for the family lunch. Unlike Mrs Tait, I picked from the garden and cold greenhouse, lettuces (Valdor and Hilde), rocket, mustard and cress, American cress, radish, lamb's lettuce, Welsh onion, spring onion, celery and sorrel. To these I added marigold petals for colour, and parsley, thyme and marjoram for flavour.

Mrs Tait might have difficulty in growing these things in Marlborough Mansions but surely some English grower could be providing them for her local supermarket.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY CARTER,
Holbrook,
Rotter Row,
Lewes, East Sussex.

April 11.

From Mr Robin Butler

Sir, Imagine my surprise this morning reading Mrs Tait's letter when only last night I had entertained similar thoughts and a few guests to dinner.

This is precisely what the Bruges Group has been working on for several months. We shall be publishing our own proposals before the EC summit in Dublin at the end of June.

Furthermore, we shall be taking those proposals to the Congress of European Liberals in Vienna, which takes place just before the start of the IGC. We are determined to set up an effective "confederal" vision for all of Europe, not just the present club of 12. Britain is the country most suited to lead a united Europe into a new era.

His final point might be made with more force. Not only should Britain stop trying to limit the scope of the IGC, but the Government should build upon the strength and logic of the Prime Minister's Bruges speech and use the IGC as a welcome opportunity to outline a vision of the Community as we actually want it.

If the IGC is going to deal with monetary union and institutional change in the EC, and given the Bruges speech as a policy basis,

it should not be difficult to turn that same speed into concrete, positive and far-reaching institutional proposals.

This is precisely what the Bruges Group has been working on for several months. We shall be publishing our own proposals before the EC summit in Dublin at the end of June.

Yours faithfully,
ROBBIN BUTLER,
20 Clifton Road,
Bristol, Avon.

April 11.

From Mr Ross Fenn

Sir, Last weekend, like Mrs Tait, I also made a salad. The lettuce, tomatoes, radish, cucumber, watercress, spring onions, parsley and capsicum all came from England, though I must confess that we ate it from a China plate, with French cutlery on a table made in Sweden.

Yours patriotically,
ROSS FENN,
Fruit Fare Ltd.,
7

So long or farewell?

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

THOUGH I suspect he is likely to make as many farewell appearances as the Maria Callas he once profiled, Tony Palmer either promised or threatened that Sunday night's *ITV South Bank Show* would be his last before setting off to a new life in Europe, directing opera. Palmer's film about the composer Paul Hindemith proved characteristically impressive and chaotic in roughly equal measure. Loosely based on the *Mahler* opera of 1933, which itself was loosely based on the Grünewald altar-piece for Issenheim of 1516, Palmer's programme was far from content to be the television film of the opera of the painting.

On to all of that, he therefore also layered the life of Hindemith in Nazi Germany, highlighted by Sir John Gielgud reading from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*: maps and guide books were not provided, but one glimpse of the Nazi banners being lifted over Hitler's head to the strains of a 50-piece orchestra and we knew where we were.

There were, as always with Palmer, some splendidly evocative and even enlightening images; but there, too, was a determination to hurl everything pell-mell at the viewers and let us make of it what we could. Hindemith turned up less often than Hitler, presumably having been of less interest to newsreel photographers circa 1934.

As for his opera, this was played out largely by church-hall amateurs in cotton-wool beards apparently auditioning for a coarse-acting contest, but also required to double as figures from an altar-piece of which the true grandeur was only revealed to us in the closing shots. It was magnificent, it was war, and it made almost no coherent narrative or documentary sense. What Palmer will be remembered as, and I hope he will continue to prove this, is the first master since Ken Russell of the pop video for classical music.

For *Arena* on BBC 2, Jana Bokova had a two-hour documentary on Havana. This was equally characteristic of the virtues and failings of the great Czech film-maker.

An exile herself, Bokova's talent is to get her camera into people's private quarters and then leave it running for ever, so that what emerges is a stream of consciousness, through which flood the agonies and the occasional ecstasies of the human spirit in retreat. In Cuba she found the relics of Castro's revolution living in a Graham Greene world of spiritual and architectural decay, while all around them the world has turned away from the communism which has worked no better there than elsewhere.



George Wein at the piano

Suzanne Vega, a singer-songwriter whose fragile appearance belies her determination, talks to Rose Rouse

Sensitive rather than weak

Delicate, waiflike, pale-skinned — New York singer-songwriter, Suzanne Vega has had her fair share of diminishing descriptions. With her intimate soft voice and her predilection for lyrics which are a darker shade of grey, Vega has been variously interpreted as a contemporary female version of Leonard Cohen or a whimsical Jean Szez.

Understandably, Vega is riled. "The waiflike thing really irritates me," she says. "It's especially bad in this country. Everyone goes 'She's so quiet, so timid and frail', and they all expect me to cower in the corner. I think I have a soft voice, but that interpretation is very superficial."

Vega is articulate, funny and penetratingly analytical. But, she does have very pale skin and a natural inclination towards fragile images and painful experiences.

"*Luka*", the moving, hugely successful single which brought her to public prominence in 1987, was about child abuse. "It has helped people realize they had been abused," she says.

"It gave them a handle to talk about it. I received thousands of letters from people all over the world telling me their experiences."

Other songs of hers deal with subjects such as attempted suicide and prostitutes. "To me the darker side of life is real life," she says. "I've always felt pop songs are live. If I write a song, I want it to be about something I consider more real."

Vega started out in 1980, wearing a black tuxedo jacket and strumming her acoustic guitar around the bars in Greenwich Village. She was a *nouvelle folie*. "The scene then was very much

women with long, flowered dresses and flowing hair or men with beards," she says. "There was no sense of contemporary folk, like there is now with Michelle Shocked, Tracey Chapman and Billy Bragg. I looked very different. I had very short hair and sang weird songs without singing along choruses." Among these ageing hippy folk types, she was considered a tough, almost punk character.

Four years later and despite her lack of obvious marketing potential, Vega was signed to A M records. Her first, eponymous album featured the seductively clever "Marlene On The Wall" and that quirky paean to fragility, "Small Blue Thing", in which Vega imagines she is a marble.

"I think that song is very funny," she says. "It's like a cartoon. It's not a big joke — it's a little one."

Vega cannot help it. She is automatically drawn to small, brittle words. She is a minimalist when it comes to the rigours of language. "I once had an argument with my stepfather, who is a novelist, over putting a semi-colon into one of his long sentences," she admits.

She also has a special talent for isolating fleeting moments then examining them very closely. In "Night Vision" which appears on *Solitude Standing*, her second album, she homes in on the central imagery. "Now I watch you falling asleep," she sings, "watch your fist curl against the sheet, watch your lips fall open and eyes dim."

Vega is just about to release her third album, *Days Of Open Hand*. Whereas her first album cover showed her as a scruffy, skinny, ethereal figure, this one has her with a very linear "bob" haircut,

● *Days Of Open Hand* is released today. Suzanne Vega's tour starts tonight at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge. It ends at the Dominion, London, May 28-June 2.



Suzanne Vega now: a more sophisticated and artistic image

Festival founder favoured with a fine 40-year tribute

CLIVE DAVIS

George Wein Gala
Carnegie Hall,
New York

AFTER four decades as the jazz world's most active impresario, George Wein amply deserved his three hours of glory in Manhattan. A fund-raiser for the respected New Jersey jazz radio station WBGO, this gala occasion had its *longueurs*, but the combination of the veteran musicianship and Bill Cosby's laconic presentation won through in the end.

Wein opened his first jazz club in Boston in 1950, not expecting the venture to last. Within a matter of years he founded the Newport Jazz Festival, inspired by the classical seasons at Tanglewood. Newport set the pattern for festivals around the world.

At Carnegie Hall it took some time to rekindle the free and easy atmosphere of the early Newport era. The opening routine by trumpeter Terence Blanchard and saxophonist Donald Harrison —

two Art Blakey graduates — was typical of the "young lions" performances, offering little beyond updated Charlie Parker with stainless steel phrasing.

Montgomery, Plant and Stritch, an enjoyable cabaret vocal act, seemed out of place in a concert hall, while Jay Beckenstein performed the kind of undemanding cocktail-hour solos associated with Spyro Gyra. The loudest applause went to Jon Faddis for his showy trumpet high notes with a group co-led by Toshiko

Of the rest of the artists, the Basie singer Joe Williams came out with all guns blazing on

"Shake, Rattle and Roll", accompanied by George Benson and a self-effacing Wynton Marsalis. Marsalis' own solo ballad was a controlled display of well-rounded tone and smeared notes, provoking sighs from the gallery.

It was the underated cornet player Warren Vaché who most caught the ear, with sinuous and concise solos which exploited the hall's acoustics. Vaché will never be as fashionable as Marsalis, but along with Ruby Braff he is among the most lyrical players.

Vaché appeared as part of Wein's All-Stars, with the promoter himself, still a nimble pianist, alongside Tabackin and trombonist Urbie Green. Wein allowed himself the liberty of deploying his sandpaper voice very pleasantly, on "Just a Gigolo". Relaxed and convivial, this was festival jazz at its best.

Negative emphasis

Noël Goodwin

St Matthew Passion
Festival Hall

FOR those who cherish *The St Matthew Passion* as sacred drama and not simply religious oratorio, the Good Friday performance was unlikely to have stirred the spirit. Divided by a "refreshment" interval of Glyndebourne proportions (though with nothing on offer to tempt any corresponding picnics on this occasion), Bach's illumination of the Gospel story glowed fitfully here and there, but for the most part sounded a dutiful account of the text rather than any sense of developing drama in music.

Above all, I never felt that Jane Glover, who conducted the two organizations she directs, the London Choral Society and London Mozart Players, was as concerned as she should have been to emphasize the optimism underlying Bach's viewpoint.

To begin with the end, the C minor elegy of the final double-chorus came across as a lament for what we had heard about instead of a reminder that this was but the prelude to the Resurrection.

Along the way, the conductor certainly kept the pace moving forward, and it was a pleasure to hear the chorales taken at quite a joyful lick, as they no doubt were as aids to encourage congregational devotion. These were well sung by the choir, supplemented in Part One by the boys of Haberdasher's Aske's Schools, but the all important intrusions of the chorus-as-people in the story-telling lacked enough vehemence or conviction to bring the events alive for us.

Adrian Thompson successfully did so with his graphic singing as the Evangelist, replacing a short notice on indisposed Anthony Rolfe Johnson, and having his intended tenor solos sung instead by John Mark Ainsley, best with Charles Madlam's agile *viola da gamba* in "Endure, endure". John Shirley-Quirk had dignity though not his clearest voice for Christus; Alastair Miles brought generous tone and eloquent feeling to the bass solos.

The ladies were disappointing: Elizabeth Gale's soprano too light and twittry, Sarah Walker's mezzo having intensity of feeling but surprising little tone to support it. The instrumental playing was secure, the flute and *oboe da caccia* notably well shaped.

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Restored with coherent, restrained taste

Andrew Gibbon Williams on the first stage of rebuilding at the National Museum of Wales

East Wing, £2.9 million has already been spent on this initiative, in the first stage of Britain's most extensive government-funded museum development. By 1993, the museum will have been extended and transformed at a total cost of £24 million.

The architects, Alex Gordon Partnership, have resisted the temptation to reconstruct the museum dramatically, and have chosen instead to restore the handsomely proportioned spaces designed by Smith and Brewer in the late Twenties. Restraint is the key to the muted colours, the artificial lighting sensitively supplementing the large skylights, the beautifully crafted display cabinets and benches. I am glad that the vogue for camp Victorianisation has also been eschewed.

The achievement of the curators is that they have hung in a historically coherent arrangement

a disparate collection, which includes landscapes by Welsh-born artists (from Richard Wilson to Jerry Richards), by artists inspired by Wales (Turner, Piper, Sutherland) and portraits of Welsh personalities such as the leek-carrying equestrian to James I Philip Proger, and the prolific "Mother of Wales", Katherine Berain.

In the largest of the rooms, the greatest Welsh patron of the 18th century, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, gazes out from what must be the finest triple Grand Tour portrait by Pompei Batoni. Around him is the furniture designed for his St James' square mansion by Robert Adam.

But the greatest strength of the collection is its landscapes. Wales provided Richard Wilson with any number of views ideal for Italianate treatment; the 13 Wilson pictures make the collection a must for students of the artist.

● *The National Museum of Wales*, at Cathays Park, Cardiff (022 397951), is open Tuesdays to Saturdays (and Bank Holiday Mondays) from 10am to 5pm, and on Sundays from 2.30 to 5pm.



Handsome proportions: one of the refurbished galleries

Dated witch-hunt which makes sense as author's cool self-revelation

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Lady Windermere's Fan
Bristol Old Vic

also to criticize their rigidity and unbend their backbones a bit. It goes without saying that the play has dated. I suspect that the people of Bristol have rather surfer, or at least less rubbery, backbones than the metropolitan norm; but they scarcely need telling that it is a little unfair to hound

that figure who so fascinated the late Victorians and their dramatists, the Woman with a Past. Indeed, Wilde's qualified defence of his Mrs Erlynne would probably have seemed dated to Wycherley and Etheridge, who wrote 200 years before him.

Still, this is less extreme than that of Pinter's Mrs Tanqueray or a dozen others. Suicide or beggary was how they stoned for sexual indiscretion. Wilde allows his Woman with a Past to lure a dim aristocrat into marriage and, more importantly, to emerge with a bit of moral credit.

Mrs Erlynne is a blackmailer, by her own admission "not worth a moment's sorrow"; but she still sacrifices herself to save her daughter from plunging into the social pit.

Maggie Steed strolls confidently through the role at Bristol, bestowing white, wolfish smiles on those whose gentility she envies. You get the impression she has come from nibbling pieces of marinated Red Riding Hood over chambagne at the Café Royal, and is peckish for dessert.

She is less successful when she belatedly discovers in herself maternal love for Lady Windermere, the child she abandoned years before; but then her author's forte was not the heating climax, nor is Robert Carson's production strong on emotion.

The eye is arrested, the imagination stirred, to be shaken into life by the arrival on stage of Borg.

I am furiously out of her husband's life as a Meissen china shepherdess is likely to storm off its mantelpiece.

What remains is a play still worth attention, both for its nimble wit and for its oblique insights into Wilde's own, increasingly perilous way of life. *Lady Windermere's Fan* is where a cynic is definitively described as someone "who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing" and scandal as "gossip made tedious by morality".

It also ends with its most priggish character, Lady Windermere herself, putting her Past was, so to speak, Wilde's own future.

Diane Hill

Bing
Renaud Barrault, Paris

pulling a cart loaded with a sack, from which he withdraws ordinary objects, made extraordinary by their very banality.

Five minutes into the hour-long performance, the first spoken word is like a pistol shot. Then follows a jigsaw puzzle of childhood memories, whose pieces are relentlessly repeated, rearranged until the sounds cease to be words and become shrill, trilling notes.

Borg begins to inhabit the space around him, bringing into play the ladders to act out an intricate geometry in which the human body plays an integral part, with

ever increasing intensity and speed. Nothing is stable, and his body is part of this instability. All is destined to collapse, according to a changing logic, sometimes at the will of the actor, sometimes at the force of a word: "Bing".

Hollow words for Wilde, who actually spent the night of the play's opening with Edward Shelley, the clerk who would figure in his trial four years later. When Mrs Erlynne talks of being "despised, mocked, abandoned, sneered at", and forced to "pay for one's sin, pay again, and pay all one's life", she might be reading her author's palm. The Woman with a Past was, so to speak, Wilde's own future.

It is imagination. Dominique Fortin's masterly lighting design punctuates the movement, serves to underline a word, anticipate a thought, accentuate an emotion.

Finally, Borg takes from the sack tiny models of the props around him, attempting to create an equilibrium in miniature.

OSCAR Wilde was an ingratiating opportunist; Oscar Wilde was a sly subversive. Either case can be sustained on the evidence of this, his first theatrical success. It is sentimental, melodramatic and mechanically constructed, yet full of impish humour. It seeks to flatter and beguile the upper classes, but

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Bringing back the truants

The old problem of truancy has taken on new dimensions, although its results are the same — wasted funds and lost talents. But a scheme funded by the Government is offering hope, Jane Bidder reports

Thirty-six local education authorities will return to school next term with extra cash in their pockets to tackle a problem described by educationalists as "non-attendance", but which parents would bluntly refer to as truancy or fear of school.

The spread of the problem prompted the Department of Education to launch its first programme to improve school attendance.

Under the scheme, local education authorities in Britain were asked to submit bids for grants totalling £2.34 million, with ideas for combating truancy or non-attendance in their area. Authorities were also asked to match the grant, pound for pound, from their own funds. Croydon, one of the 36 authorities to win a grant, plans to monitor two or three schools by drafting in extra staff and, possibly, computerizing school attendance details to keep a day-by-day record of students.

The grants come at an opportune time. The summer term, due to start in about two weeks, is normally the peak period for truancy because of the mild weather and sometimes fear of examinations.

Although no central figures are available (each authority keeps individual records), the Secondary Heads' Association believes truancy "has definitely increased in the last five years". Jackie Miller, the association's assistant general secretary, says part of the blame lies with the National Curriculum, which insists that pupils take certain subjects until they turn 16.

"I can see some children voting with their feet if they cannot get out of a subject they do not enjoy."

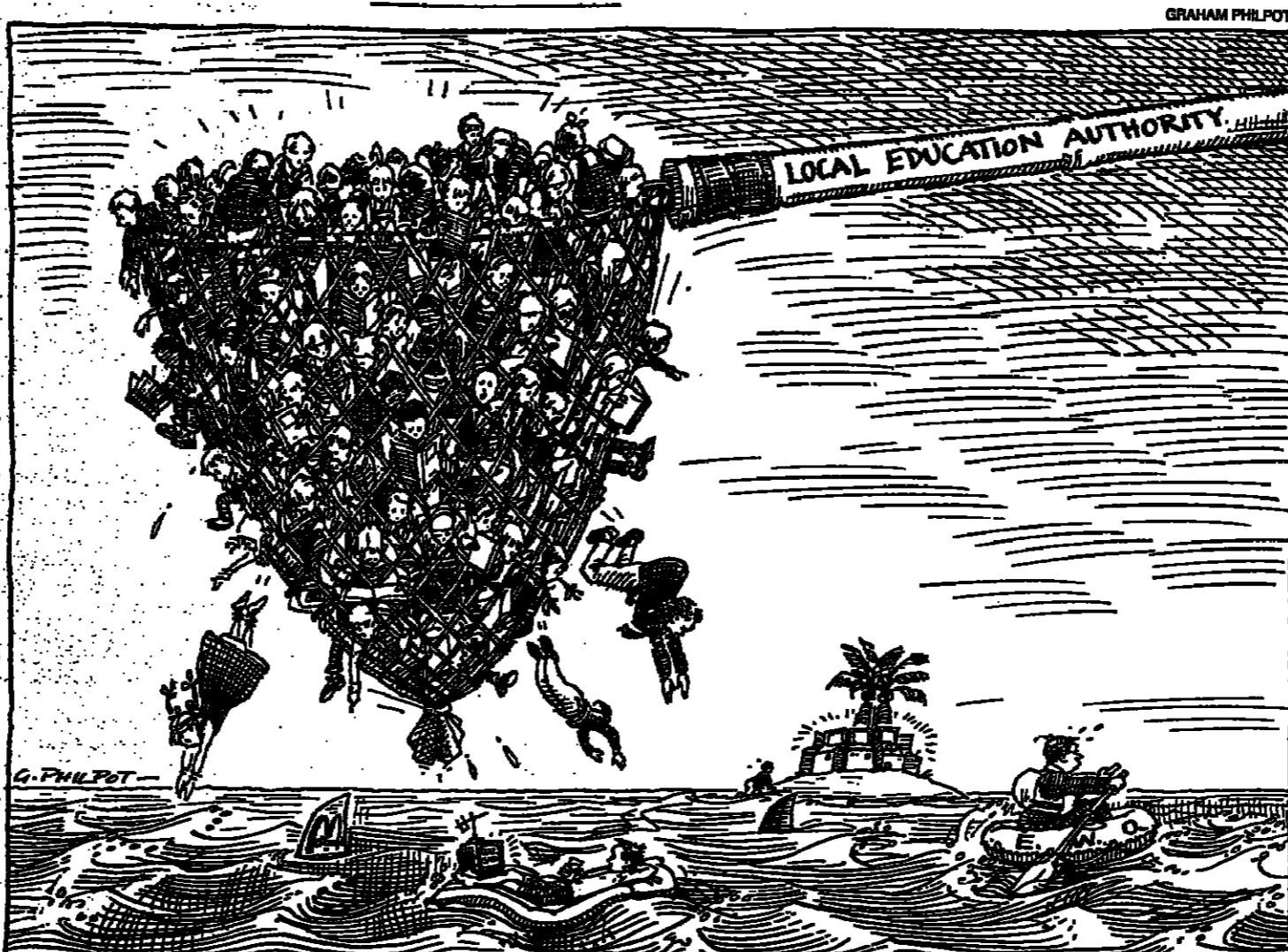
Ms Miller says truancy has been worsened by the school disputes of the late 1980s. "Children learn the subconscious message that if teachers can opt out, so can they."

Legally, a local education authority is obliged to ensure that children receive a full-time education. A team of educational welfare officers is usually responsible for this. However, not all authorities employ welfare officers; some have to transfer the job to social services; others have only part-time officers.

Peter Lowe, general secretary of the National Association of Social Workers in Education, says: "There are only 3,000 educational welfare officers to cover up to 10 million school children. Many have had patchy or no training."

A 1989 government report entitled "Education Observed: Attendance at School" also criticized schools that did not adequately involve education welfare officers. The report says that "in some primary schools, head teachers were reluctant to call on the education welfare officer because of the school's own concern to establish and build direct relationships with parents." Truancy was once viewed as a class problem affecting families that placed little value on education. Now the problem affects middle-class children, too.

Bob Gale, of the Professional Association of Teachers, says: "Kids from professional backgrounds with both parents working are often left to make their own



way to school in the morning — or not, as the case may be."

Mr Gale also works with children with social and emotional problems. "Many are adept at 'going to school', registering then absconding, before returning home just when everyone else is leaving school," he says. "It can be some time before a child is caught out or a parent contacted. Often, the parents are shocked rigid when they find out."

Why don't these children want to go to school? Mr Gale says boredom is one of the main reasons. He also points to the lure of outside activities, to bullying, pupils who cannot cope with the classroom environment and pressure from classmates to "run with the rest of the crowd." He adds: "There are also children who are kept at home by parents who crave their company."

Mr Gale says parents of truants usually begin by talking to the class teacher and head, perhaps with the child present, to see why the problem has arisen. "The emotional reasons have to be explored. If this does not help, parents should ask the school to refer them to the educational psychology service offered by most local authorities."

Treatment for such cases might

include family therapy, insisting a child goes to school and faces his fears (a recognized treatment for phobias), or a more gradual approach — slowly re-introducing a child to the classroom.

Dr Pearce adds: "Occasionally, it might be necessary for a pupil to be transferred. But it is crucial not to ignore the problem; children who refuse to go to school often end up as adults with poor work records, higher marriage failure rates and a greater likelihood of undergoing psychiatric treatment."

Preventive treatment by parents can also help school-shy pupils, according to Emilie Dowling, a child psychologist with the child and family department of the Tavistock Clinic, London, and author of *Family and the School*.

"We receive several phone calls about non-attendance," she says. "With younger children, it often happens during transition from nursery to primary school. Parents need to prepare their children for the changes, the more a child can visualize, the better."

"Go over details like where they will hang their coat, what the playground is like, the fact that their friends will be different and

any other information you assume your child already knows."

"Parents should also watch what they say in front of their children. I had one client whose parents (one of whom was a former teacher) used to criticize the school in her hearing and say it was not stimulating enough. Eventually, the child did not want to go at all."

Like Dr Pearce, Ms Dowling often encourages a slow return to school. "I had one 12-year-old boy who reacted violently to being transferred from a small primary to a large secondary," she says. "He was scared by the number of children and by the journey. Instead of walking two blocks, he had a half-hour trek."

"He also had to carry a heavy musical instrument from one classroom to the other (many state schools have no cloakroom facilities), so he started going home after lunch (having first registered for afternoon classes) while his mother was at work."

"After he was found out and referred to me, I helped plan a timetable with the school to protect him against a rather unstructured climate. Gradually, he came to accept school life."

NOTEBOOK

Faint praise on appraisal

IN a remarkable piece of togetherness, all six teacher unions have united to tell John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, how they want him to introduce the appraisal of teachers. Mr MacGregor delayed the introduction of appraisal because he says schools and teachers were already hard-pressed in dealing with the other changes demanded by the education format.

His critics believed, however, that he was unhappy with the recommendations of the national steering group, which proposed an expensive and complicated scheme designed to support and develop the careers of teachers — a far cry from a system to weed out unsatisfactory teachers, as demanded by many right-wingers.

Doug McAvoy, the new National Union of Teachers general secretary, said: "The unions will only accept a system of appraisal that supports teachers. It will not be acceptable if it is linked to merit pay or used as a means of dismissal or discipline. The appraisal report must remain private and not be available to school governors."

On the fringe

SOME of the most intriguing events are on the NUT conference fringe. The Socialist Teachers Alliance has had a speaker from the Birmingham Six Campaign and on Wednesday will deal with women and reproductive rights.

Equal rights

EQUAL RIGHTS are a recurring theme at the annual conference which is anxious to improve opportunities for boys and girls. The NUT's alternative National Curriculum calls for greater efforts to ensure that subjects such as maths, science and technology are made more "girl friendly" by using everyday situations which are familiar to girls. Boys, however, should be encouraged to take up modern languages for career prospects and travel.

In his place

THE man who is expected to hold the conference together has a relaxed view. When the going got too tough on the platform, NUT general-secretary Doug McAvoy took his seat in the front row of the stalls in the Bournemouth centre and said: "I think I'll stay here."

David Tytler
Education Editor

School clocks on to a small business

Douglas Broom
reports on the
changing attitudes
of the classroom
entrepreneurs

Anyone attempting to gauge the success of the Conservative Government in changing the climate of thought in Britain would do well to spend some time in the classroom. Beneath the predictable moans about the National Curriculum and the rest of the Government's education reform programme runs an undercurrent of change as radical as anything that ministers have attempted to introduce.

Business, once a dirty word to many teachers, has not only stormed the education citadel, but won the hearts of its inhabitants.

Since 1985, when the Department of Trade and Industry launched its Mini-Enterprise in Schools Project, attitudes among teenagers have undergone a transformation.

Anyone whose image of the archetypal sixth-former was gained before 1979 would be shocked to meet today's adolescents. Their attitudes to life have become as sharp as the creases in their trousers or skirts.

The change in outlook owes much to the general trend in youth opinion under Mrs Thatcher. Innumerable greying heads have been scratched during the past decade about the new-found "conservatism" of the young.

The children of the Fifties grew up believing that youth equalled rebellion. Today even the pop songs are about money and possessions.

At Palmers College, a sixth-form college at Grays, Essex, Trevor Briggs is unmoved by suggestions that his generation has sold out to capitalism, despite the fact that at the age of 17 he is already a company secretary. The school's small-business, Sparxx Young Enterprise Company, is thriving. Its first share issue was over-subscribed.

"I don't think that we are selling out to capitalism at all," Trevor says. "Running the company is exciting and it will help tremendous in our future careers."

Perhaps closer in spirit to Arthur Daley than the more formal schools of business, Sparxx is about to launch an unusual range of clocks, formed from remoulded 45 rpm single records. In a neat marriage of past and present, the protest pop songs of the Sixties will be used to swell the profit margins of the entrepreneurial Nineties. The project



Down to business: the sixth-form board of Sparxx Young Enterprise Company discusses its quartz clock, made from remoulded discs

was launched after being carefully costed by the board of directors, all of whom are under 18. Apart from the quartz clock parts, the design, assembly and marketing are in the hands of the pupils.

"We have already a lot of people showing interest," says Trevor, who is studying economics, pure maths and computer science at A Level. In addition, he is following the college's "into Management" course, developed by Peter Thomas, a senior teacher.

He says: "I am not aware of a similar model to this anywhere else in the country. It started because we asked the students if they wanted to do something like this, and got 60 applicants for the 20 places. The applicants were interviewed by local businessmen, who also give advice and support."

Before setting up the course, Mr Thomas was responsible for co-ordinating the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) at the college. Launched by Lord Young, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, TVEI was fiercely resisted by schools in its early days, with teachers accusing the Government of shelling industrial training into the curriculum.

That would be a sad fate for a subject whose very existence in the school timetable is perhaps the greatest testimony to the Government's success in shaking up attitudes in education.

Brings to make learning more relevant to the world of work is welcomed, and so are the ideas.

Like their pupils, teachers appear to have been won over to the idea that preparing pupils for the world of work need not mean compromising standards or academic integrity.

Kevin Crompton, director of the Mini-Enterprise in Schools Project, has presided over a quantum leap in thinking. In September 1985, only about 25 per cent of schools attempted to run enterprise projects. Today the figure is more than 80 per cent, and 3,000 teachers are helping their pupils run mini-enterprises.

Even more heartening for Mr Crompton is the growth in enterprise education — courses or single lessons that teach pupils about wealth creation, business, finance and economics. "Not only does it make them better potential businessmen and women, it makes them into better citizens," he says.

Despite this enviable degree of market penetration, the horizon is far from unclouded. Mr Crompton, who steps down later this month, fears that the National Curriculum will squeeze enterprise out of the curriculum.

That would be a sad fate for a



Go-getter: Trevor Briggs, the company secretary of Sparxx

Take your partners for a ritual dance

The unions take to the floor for their regulation conference confrontations

The ritual dances of Britain's classroom teachers are on again this week when the two biggest unions hold annual conferences with all the usual posturing and breast-beating. From Bournemouth and Scarborough will come calls for strikes and better pay. There will be protests against all the Government reforms, particularly the Local Management of Schools (LMS), which hands the day-to-day running of schools to heads and governors.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) already has held a one-day pay strike to protest at the two-stage 8.3 per cent pay deal imposed by the Government, and there may be more to come.

Nigel de Gruchy, who will take over as general secretary of NAS/UWT at the end of the Scarborough conference, predicts sporadic protests over redundancies caused by LMS, but a more sustained campaign over pay. He says: "Strikes are almost inevitable over the next few years as I am sure the resentment will spread into other unions."

"The most pressing problems facing us are poor pay and increased work load."

The NAS/UWT has instructed its members to put their preparation and classroom work at the top of their priorities and put the paper work to the bottom — a move which has been criticized by the other unions who have little love for Mr de Gruchy.

He says: "This will enhance the education of the children but will be bad for the bureaucrats at the Department of Education and Science and bad for the politicians who promised rash things from the Education Reform Act."

In a clear side-swipe at Doug McAvoy, the National Union of Teachers and its new general secretary, Mr de Gruchy says: "I am determined that we shall remain a union, although I realize that is unfashionable these days. But we are a genuine union and will not be transferred into an advertising agency."

Meanwhile, Mr McAvoy is busily involved in a high-risk strategy to give his union a more moderate image in the hope of winning more parental support. Starting with a redesign of the NUT's corporate image, he has also launched a £1 million advertising campaign designed to highlight the crisis facing the education system.

The advertising campaign is expected to draw sharp criticism from the hard left at Bournemouth

this week, as will his refusal to join the NAS/UWT strike. The biggest criticism, however, will be reserved for his bold schemes designed to reduce the influence of the hard left and head off the inevitable calls for fresh strikes. It promises to be a heated debate and the moderate executive will have to pull out all stops to win approval for a massive consultation exercise which would put power in the hands of individual union members at the expense of activists.

If the conference approves, union officials will hold a series of local meetings to ask teachers how they think the union should pursue its campaign for better pay and conditions. The results of the consultation exercise would be reported to a special conference on pay in the autumn which would endorse the measures favoured by the grassroots.

Mr McAvoy is anxious to free the union from the grip of the hard left which he believes is not representative of the union membership. He says fewer than half the members took part in the selection of motions for the conference.

"If democracy has to be based on members attending meetings then you will never get a representative picture of what members want," Mr McAvoy says.

The NUT pamphlet on teacher recruiting has been welcomed by John MacGregor, Secretary for State for Education and Science, while he criticizes Mr de Gruchy for talking down teaching and effectively putting people off joining the profession.

Mr de Gruchy is unrepentant: "We refuse to suppress the truth just because it is inconvenient to the Government. If teaching was an attractive profession the Government would not have to employ Saatchi and Saatchi to con people into it. Advertising is no substitute for action."

Mr MacGregor has been busy building bridges with all the teacher unions and reserves most of his criticism for Mr de Gruchy. He says: "I think these moves are more to do with the numbers war with other unions than the real interests of the teaching profession. Their way of doing battle seems to be to try to grab the most strident headlines they can."

The success of Mr McAvoy's attempt to reform the NUT will determine largely how much help Mr MacGregor can expect.

David Tytler

PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

NEW IN LONDON

GOLDEN DECADES: Selected prints from the richest decades of printmaking 1630-40, 1740-50, 1880-90 and 1920-30; Van Dyck, Canaletto, Whistler, Brockhurst and Schmidt-Rottluff are included.

Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-459 7622). Daily 10am-5pm, free, until April 21. From Tues.

SYDNEY HARPLEY RA: A series of figurative sculptures, dancers and girls on swings, by a popular artist who sells massively, up to £100,000 worth of casts, at Royal Academy Summer Shows.

Chris Beetles Gallery, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-639 7551). Daily 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 4. From Wed.

A NORTHERN SCHOOL: Works by 20th-century Lancashire artists who, like LS Lowry, focus mainly on the industrial landscape and gritty street scenes; Georg Esser, Alan Lownes, Max Blundell and Harold Riley are among the 26 painters represented.

Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (01-621 1126). Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, free, until May 28. From Thurs.

NANCY SPERO: New work by an American feminist artist.

Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, W1 (01-253 5575). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 26. From Thurs.

MASTERS FROM THE GELMAN COLLECTION: An astonishing collection of 81 important modern paintings of near-iconic status, such as Matisse's "Odeon" and Miró's "Animated Landscape".

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (01-439 7430). Daily 10am-6pm, £2.50, until May 13. From Sat.

CONTINUING

JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY (1734-1797): More than 100 paintings depicting dramatic, original scenes of workmen, scientific experiments as well as the more traditional landscapes and portraits.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (01-821 7129). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, £3, until April 22.

LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON: Works by two "old master" painters, some of them acquired recently (and very expensively), and no fewer than 15 sculptures by Turner Prize winner Richard Deacon.

Seatchell Collection, 58A Boundary Road, NW8 (01-624 8299). Fri-Sat 12-6pm, free, until November.

FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION: Six hundred objects about the faking of art from all periods, from "wrong" Etruscan sculptures to bogus Hockneys.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-536 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, £3, (concs), until September 2.

IN OUR TIME: Photographs by Magnum agency photographers from founder members Cartier-Bresson and Capa to some of the best young photojournalists, Sebastian Salgado, Chris Steele-Perkins and Gilles Peress.

Haworth Gallery, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-261 0127). Daily 10am-6pm, 24 (concs), until May 6.

PAINTING IN FOCUS: Winter Landscape by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840), which was purchased for the nation last year, comes under acute scholarly scrutiny in comparison with other versions.

The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-639 3321). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 28.

OUTSIDE LONDON

ELIZABETH BLACKADDER RA: Still life paintings which delight in colour and pattern, charged with close observation, celebrating everyday objects.

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (0539 722484). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 17. From today.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2153

ACROSS

1 Hot medicinal soaks (8)
5 Vomit (4)
9 Open car cover (7)
10 Official Indian language (5)
11 Formidable assignment (9,4)
13 Cross crown (5)
15 Master (5)
17 Saracenic Verses author (6,7)
21 Enigma variations com-
mon (5)
22 Showring agreement (7)
23 Fancy dresser (4)
24 Serving bottle (6)

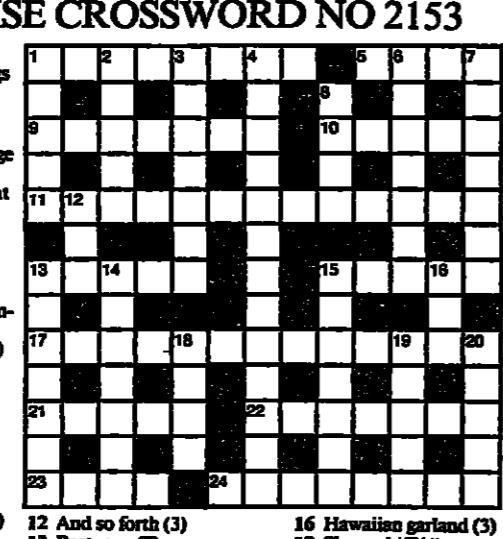
DOWN

1 Equal (5)
2 Giver (5)
3 Stories (7)
4 Dutch royal line (5,2,6)
6 Armchair game (7)
7 Crumpled (7)
8 Avoid (4)
12 And so forth (3)
13 Postpone (7)
14 Compelled (7)
15 Things left over (7)

SOLUTION TO CONCISE EASTER JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 Ran rabbit run rabbit, run, run, run 15 Entertain 16 in force 17 Din-
ner set 18 Turpeth 19 Glossolalia 20 Rotator 21 Belied our 22 Macerated 24
Enamel 25 Puffin 26 Hippo 26 Barometer 37
Anemone 39 Enact 40 Retrain 41 Mute 42 Expel 43 To 44
50 Covert 52 Nest 53 Evil 54 Evil
which 57 Unusually 58 Odessa 61 Oregon 64 Hobble 66 Overreach 68
Dormant 69 Impenitence 71 Encour-
age 75 Everything but the kitchen sink

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Unassimilable 13 Risotto 14 Naval instinct 15 Banquet 16 28 Embroidered
29 Terra 31 Proceeding 32 Inexactness 33 Thermos 34 Amaretto 37
Anemone 38 Exploit 39 Entente 40 Succumb 47
Fined 51 Resplendent 53 Leatherneck 55 What a pity 56 Hebreans 59 Direc-
tion 60 Research 62 Earlobe 63 Ostrich
65 Hempeck 66 Overrest 67 Grace



WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

KALONG: The Malayan fragivorous fox-eared, *Pteropus calotes*, the largest known bat, found in Indonesia, Thailand, Java, Sumatra etc, where it is used for food. "The flight of the kalong is slow and steady, pursued in a straight line, and capable of long continuance."

DOIT: (a) Having one's faculties impaired, especially by age, perhaps a variant of *dotted*: "Then on the doited and chewed shelves, merchandise had been around for years." **TRANSHUMANCE:**

(a) The seasonal transfer of grazing animals to different pastures, often over great distances, from the Latin *trans*-over + *rumen* ground: "Sheep which knew transhumance were not averse to being shepherded a score of miles."

FUCHIA: (c) Moonlighting, doing a job poorly. Polish for using company time and resources to do a non-company job for yourself or somebody else."

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Fined 51 Resplendent 53 Leatherneck 55 What a pity 56 Hebreans 59 Direc-
tion 60 Research 62 Earlobe 63 Ostrich
65 Hempeck 66 Overrest 67 Grace

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 836 3161 cc 240
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£30 (incl. Fees) 10pm (incl. Fees) - THE KIROV BALLET
5 June - 7 July

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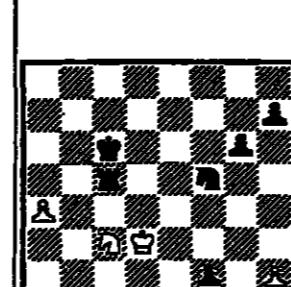
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4093 6191 240 7200
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30 June Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg The ROYAL OPERA
2pm (incl. Fees) 10pm (incl. Fees) - THE ROYAL OPERA TOMORROW
31 June Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg The ROYAL OPERA
2pm (incl. Fees) 10pm (incl. Fees) - THE ROYAL OPERA TOMORROW

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ADLAM'S WELLS 278 8916
First CC 24 hr 7 days 240
7200 From 24th April WELLS'S ROYAL BALLET

ME AND MY GIRL
MUSICAL
Nightly at 7.30 Mat Wed
at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 6.00
"THE HAPPY SHOW IN
TOWN" Sunday Evening

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent

In today's position, from the game Piro (White) — Byrne (Black), Helsinki 1952, you can see how Byrne spotted an opportunity to cash in on [?] Solution in tomorrow's Times.

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Compiled by Peter Dear
and Penny Osborn

A matter of taste

Not many BBC British nature programmes begin their story in Ancient Rome, but there is nothing conventional about *The Incredible Edible Dormouse* (BBC1, 8pm). It was the Romans who first found a place for this roguish rodent on a menu. As they consumed all sorts of creatures which are no longer considered digestible, let alone a delicacy, it comes as a surprise that a Mancunian butcher breeds, slaughters and sells this type of dormice at £24 a pair. Apparently the taste of upmarket gamepie, Lord Rothschild brought the nocturnal, long-tailed gnat over from Hungary in 1902, ever since when it has been proliferating through the Home Counties. Britain's



Diana Rigg narrates: bedtime story voice-over (BBC1, 8pm).

least-known mammal is gradually introducing itself to the human population, occupying attics, feasting in apple sheds, chewing its way through forests, electrical wiring, organ pipes, car engines and just about anything else it can sink its indestructible teeth into. What with the tongue-in-cheek presentation and Diana Rigg's bedtime-story voice-over, you can be forgiven for wondering why this programme is being broadcast on Easter Monday as to opposed to April Fool's Day, but the usual high standard of photography persuades you that this protected pest really does exist.

An entire evening is given over to Nelson Mandala - An International Tribute (9pm, 5.45pm), tonight's five-hour musical shindig at Wembley Stadium. Not being the kindest of rock arenas for people who actually attend, probably the best place to watch the whole show is in front of your television; where at least you are assured of a decent view. Performers include Tracy Chapman, Neneh Cherry, Peter Gabriel, Neil Young, Natalie Cole, Miriam Makeba, Simple Minds and Ian Reddick. Lenny Henry, Ben Elton and Denzel Washington compere. The great man himself will address the assembled company towards the end of the proceedings.

In Italian Regional Cookery (BBC2, 5.15pm) - Valentina Harris, who is half-Italian, herself, takes the viewer on a highly personal tour of the country's various local cuisines. In part two, it is the turn of the cliff-hanging vines of Liguria and the Parma, Parmesan and pasta of Emilia Romagna.

The Miniature Makers (Channel 4, 9pm) is a study of a traditional Indian art and its modern practitioners. Once patronized by Royalty, today's miniaturists have to rely on tourists for their trade. They use genuine materials, one reason why the product does not seem to have diminished in quality. There are many remarkably beautiful examples to prove it.

BINGE

4.00 *Cestus*
7.00 News, regional news and weather.
7.15 Easter Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parfitt and Andi Peters, begins with Hello Spectre. American puppet series (r)
7.40 The Pink Panther Show
8.00 News, regional news and weather.
8.15 Snoggle. Cartoon adventure from Coral Island 8.45 *Cartoon Double Bill*. Two Warner Brothers classics, *Love and Curses* and *Count Me Out* 8.55 Regional news and weather.
8.50 News and weather followed by Defenders of the Earth. Animated science fiction adventures 8.55 *Why Don't You...?* Adventure drama series incorporating entertainment for youngsters set in a loose and crazy Hotel. Co. Cartoon fun with the fat alley cat *Puss and the Big Wide World*. The last in the series of animated adventures of a bemused young chick 10.30 *Playdays* (r) 10.35 Five to Eleven A reading for Easter by Jean Marsh

10.15 *Film: Pier Lap* (1984) starring Tom Burlinson, Martin Vaughan and Ron Leibman. The sentimental true story of the legendary racehorse who became the idol of thousands of Australians in the 1930s. Despite his good breeding, Pier Lap had a short career and his trainer said you could never lose him in the creature and together they turned him into a champion. An enthralling chronicle directed by Simon Wincer

12.45 *Woodpecker Double Bill*, 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 *News at Nine* with Chris Lowe. Weather. 1.15 *Evening News*. Another dose of Australian suburban drama. (Coffeed)

1.30 *Grandstand* introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 1.35 *Skateboard*: the Carrington National championship final from the NEC Birmingham; 2.15 and 4.00 *Snooper*: first round action from the British Professional championship; 2.45 *Judge the British Open*: championships in London; 3.00 *Ice Hockey*: Murrayfield Flyers v Fife Flyers in Edinburgh; 3.30 *Football*: half-times 4.30 *Final Scores*

5.00 News with Chris Lowe. Weather.
5.15 *Regional news and weather*.
5.20 *Neighbours* (r) (Coffeed)

5.45 *Music: Superstar* (1977) starring John Travolta, Karen Lynn Gorney and Barry Miller. A young man from Brooklyn who lives for the weekend and disco dancing takes up with a girl who has her sights set on higher things. Travolta's 70s-style suits look absurd but if you can overlook the white flares you'll enjoy the exciting dance numbers and the memorable soundtrack.

Sticky directed by John Badham 7.20 *Ice Queen*. Told by ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean who perform two spectacular numbers - their first appearance on the ice in the UK since 1985. Lizzy Oliver - actress Joan Plowright - is also a guest.

8.00 *The Incredible Edible Dormouse*, (Coffeed) (see Choice)

8.30 *Joint Account*. So so comedy starring Hammer Gordon as a bank manager and his under-employed husband. (Coffeed)

9.00 *News@6* News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather 9.20 *File: Jagged Edge* (1985) starring Jeff Bridges and Glenn Close. Hotshot lawyer Glenn Close falls in love with the newspaper publisher she is defending - who may or may not be guilty of murdering his wife. Tense courtroom drama and an unexpected twist or two make this a thrill ride. Turn your head on. Directed by Richard Marquand. (Coffeed)

11.30 *The Rock 'n' Roll Years*. The irresistible combination of music and archive news footage continues with the year 1965. Castro took over Cuba, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet, monkeys were sent into space and Russ Conway, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury and Ray Charles were making the music.

11.35 *Music: Caribbean*. Highlights of the fourth disc's picks in this decisive fifth Test between the West Indies and England from St John's, Antigua, introduced by Tony Lewis

12.00 *Woman's Advice Shop*. A poll tax special presented by Helen Madden and Hugh Scott (r)

12.35 *Weather*

TELEVISION & RADIO

TV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News followed by *Mad Glorious Mad*, a RSPB film 6.30 *Armies in Action*: Water of Life narrated by Keith Shelderton 7.00 *Wesday Easter Monday*. Special presented by Timmy Mallett starting with an animated version of Tom Sawyer

8.25 *Cross Wits*. Tom O'Connor hosts the game show for crossword addicts.

9.55 *Film: Ernest Goes to Camp* (1987) starring Jim Varney. A very unfunny so-called comedy about an obviously dimwit whose ambition it is to be a summer camp counsellor. Directed by John Cherry II

11.30 *Ice Skating*. Nick Owen presents coverage of the Skates Electric British Challenge from Bracknell where the country's leading young skaters have an opportunity to display their considerable talent and skill 12.30 *Home and Away*. Australian drama serial about a couple and their five young children.

1.00 *News at One* with Nicholas Owen. Weather.

1.05 *Film: The Ten Commandments* (1956) starring Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner and Anne Baxter. Lavish and lengthy Biblical epic with an all-star cast, chronicling the life of Moses. The parting of the Red Sea and the writing of the tablets helped to special effects Oscar. Directed: Cecil B. DeMille's special effects director, the other being made in 1923

1.10 *News* with Nicholas Owen. Weather.

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Sticky directed by John Badham

2.00 *Ice Queen*. Told by ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean who perform two spectacular numbers - their first appearance on the ice in the UK since 1985. Lizzy Oliver - actress Joan Plowright - is also a guest.

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5.45 *Weather*

BBC 2

6.00 *Flesh Gordon* (b/v). Starring Buster Crabbe (r)

9.00 *Film: A Lady Takes a Chance* (1943, b/w). A New York office girl, holidaying out West, falls for a rodeo rider. Not surprisingly she misses the bus back to New York. Unusual comedy coupling of Jean Arthur and John Wayne with a few more laughs provided by Phil Silvers as the bus tour driver.

Directed by William Sante

10.15 *World Snooker*. Day four of the Embassy World Professional championship and the first round continues with Tim Griffiths concluding his match against Nigel Gilbert and Joe Johnson starting his campaign against Darren Morgan. Introduced by David Icke from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield

11.30 *Clown*. Gardening monster fun for children, presented by Nick Mercer and Stela Goode (r)

1.00 *Songs of Praise*. A repeat of the Easter edition introduced by Alan Titchmarsh from Coventry. (r)

1.15 *Film: The Devil's Disciple* (1935) starring Ronald Colman, Franchot Tone, Charles Laughton and Greer Garson.

2.00 *News* with Nicholas Owen. Weather.

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Hallelujah! Hot gospel music* (r)

6.30 *Poetry Book* 6.45 *Sing and Swing* with the stars of the 1930s and 1940s 7.05 *Captain America* 7.50 *Moonstruck*

8.25 *Film: A Dog's Life* (1918, b/v) starring Charlie Chaplin in the classic silent short about a tramp and his pooch helping each other out.

Directed by Charlie Chaplin

10.10 *Animation* on 4: *Everybody Rides* (1937) followed by Hello and Animation Pie

12.00 *Fame: Take That* (Theatre The Dancing Princesses). Romantic but humorous Grimm fairytale starring Leslie Ann Warren

1.00 *Seasame Street*

2.00 *Interviewing*. Open Camera series on interviewing skills (r) (Teletext)

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* From Kempton Park and Farnborough. The 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.00 from Kempton and the Jameson Irish Grand National from Farnborough at 3.55

4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*

5.00 *Film: Count du Solier* (1917).

Jacques Tati stars in this short as his most famous character, M Hulot, giving a night-school talk to modelled students. Directed by Max Linder

5.35 *Film: Parade* (1974) starring Jacques Tati as the ring-master of a small circus. Written and directed by him, the work contains some of his finest mime

6.55 *News and weather*

7.00 *Hostages*. A documentary which investigates the motives of the IRA. Michael Jackson, the captives' horrendous conditions and their families' heartache (r)

8.00 *Brookdale*. Suburban Merseyside drama (Teletext)

8.30 *Desmond's* (c) *Thirty Year Itch*. Last in the unspiring comedy series set around a West Indian barber and his wife. Directed by Alan Aldridge

9.00 *Music: Moonshiners*. (Teletext)

10.00 *Horror*. A case for the return of the heavy horse is given by Devon farmer, Charlie Pinney. His argument is that horses are more versatile, economic and environment-friendly than tractors. First shown on BBC South West

4.40 *World Snooker*. David Virth with further round coverage of the Embassy World Professional snooker from Sheffield. The afternoon's players include Tony Knowles, Tony Chappell, Mike Hall and Steve Newbury

5.15 *Italian Regional Cookery*.

Valentino Harris continues her culinary trip through Italy. This week visits Liguria, Bologna and Parma (Coffeed)

5.45 *News@6* News with Michael Mandella. (Teletext)

6.00 *Horror*. A concert to the memory of the recently deceased anti-apartheid leader, Nelson Mandela. (Teletext)

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9.00

Moscow's midnight bells ring out for Easter

From Michael Binion, Moscow

ON THE stroke of midnight all the bells began ringing the bishops and metropolitans in their gorgeous robes processed out in triumph and the quavering voices of the *babushki* joined the vibrant bass chants of the priests soaring to the magnificent golden dome of Moscow's Epiphany Cathedral.

Russia celebrated Easter with a reverence and mystery that has marked the holiest day of the Orthodox calendar for more than 1,000 years. This year, however, the officially atheist communist state also joined in: two television channels carried the entire service live, while the third showed an Italian film on the life of Christ.

Newspapers were filled with the Easter message of Patriarch Pimen, the police cordoned off streets and set up

pedestrian areas to allow worshippers thronging the dangerously packed churches to celebrate in the open air. Even Tass noted that thousands flocked to services on Saturday night, as "religious feelings run deep in many Soviet citizens".

The rituals, of course, were observed with unchanging ceremony. The services began with Lent mourning for the crucified Christ, changing to the joyful celebration of "Christos vostres" — Christ is risen — as people with candles walked around the churches. Diplomats and foreigners, ushered to the front by police and given privileged treatment as usual, were caught in the surging, almost frightening crowds.

On Easter Day hundreds of thousands — young people in jeans, old women in head-scarves, smartly-dressed middle-class families, workers clutching battered bags and sometimes red-faced from drink — streamed to the cemeteries for traditional remembrance visits.

At Vaganskoye, a huge tree-shaded walled cemetery where some of Moscow's most famous cultural figures lie, the atmosphere was almost like a football match. A great mound of tulips, carnations, sprigs of pine and whatever could be bought from hawkers outside, covered the grave of Vladimir Vysotsky, the balaader and bitter-sweet chronicler of Russia's sufferings and hopes who has been virtually canonized since his early death in 1980.

Crowds also pressed round the white marble memorial to Sergei Yesenin, the poet and lover of Isadora Duncan, who killed himself in 1925. In a farther part of the cemetery people sought out a more recent cultural hero — Maris Liepa, one of the greatest Bolshoi dancers who died last year. Each grave, stretching row after row and surrounded by iron fences and with headstones bearing photographs or engravings of the deceased, had been cleaned and laid with fresh flowers, coloured eggs, libations of vodka and other offerings. People pressed in the warm spring sun round the little church near the cemetery entrance in the vain hope of getting in.

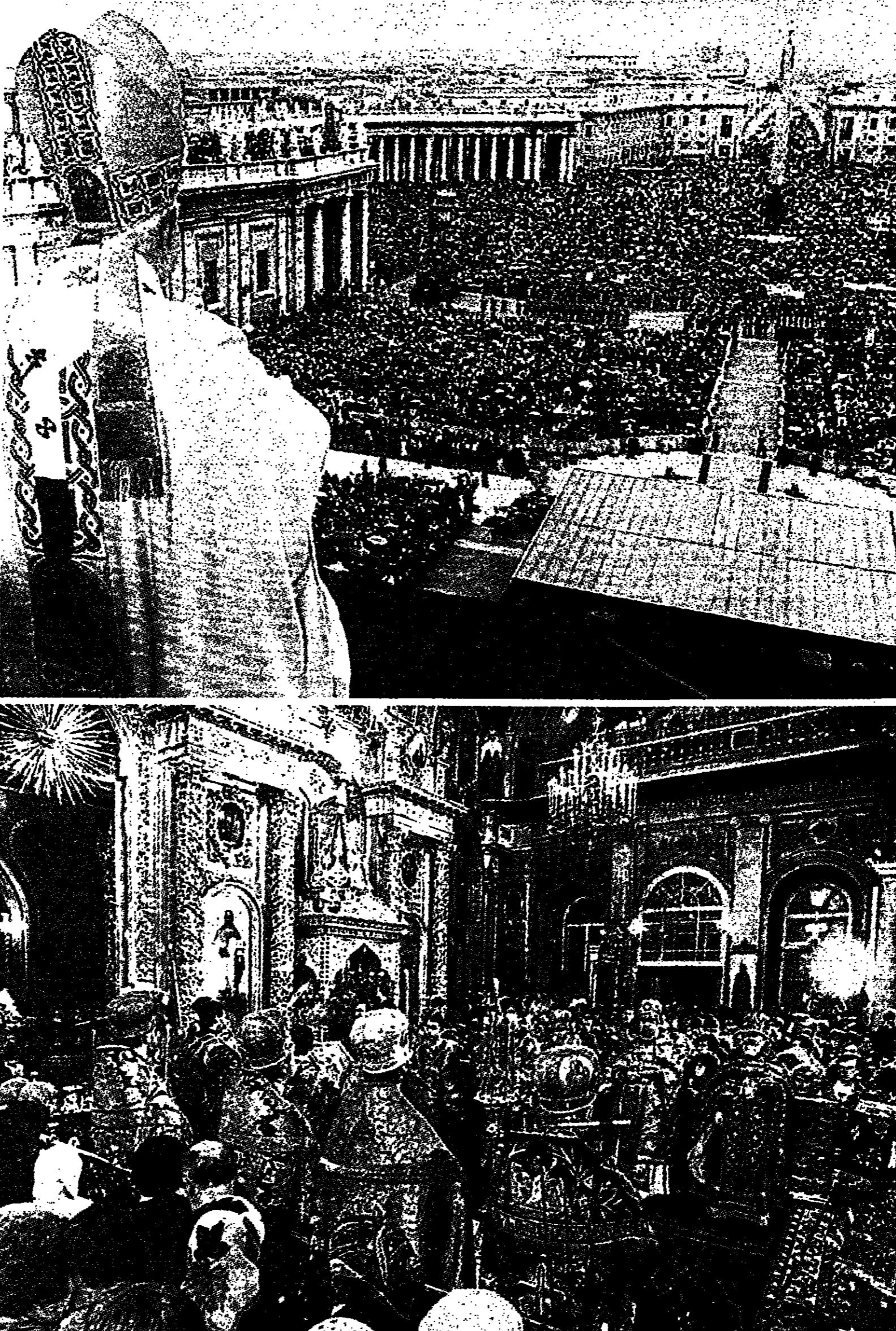
Easter normally marks the start of spring in Russia, though this year the warm weather came early. It also falls just before the great state-sponsored clean-up, normally held in honour of a more secular god, Lenin.

Mrs Thatcher plans to fly to Turin to address the foreign ministers' Nato meeting on her way to see Mr Gorbachov in Kiev that weekend.

The Prime Minister refused to acknowledge publicly in Bermuda that she has ended her insistence on the updating of the ground-launched short-range Lance nuclear missile, sticking to the past communiqué formula that such a decision is one for Nato.

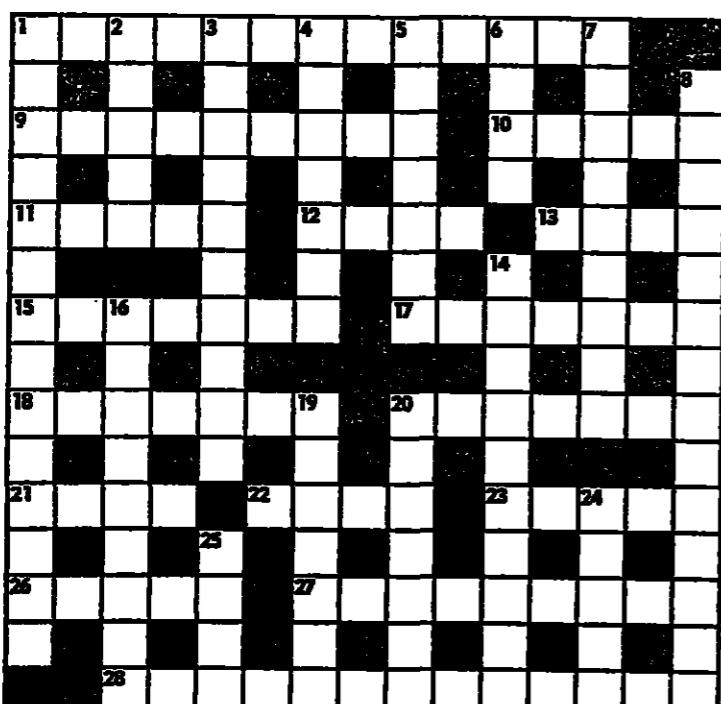
Mrs Thatcher does not want Britain to be the only European member of Nato offering facilities for air-launched nuclear weapons and she sees the acceptance by a newly unified Germany of some nuclear weapons in its soil as an important test of the country's commitment to Nato and to the Western way of life its people have voted to join.

Such problems are stacking up, and officials in most main Nato countries recognize that the reunification of Germany and the changes in Eastern Europe require early consideration of the armaments, troop dispositions and future architecture of Nato itself by the 16 nations in concert.



Above: The Pope delivering his Easter Day message, "Urbi et Orbi" to a packed St Peter's Square in the Vatican while in Moscow, below, Russian Orthodox Christians celebrate midnight Mass in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Epiphany. (Leipzig's walk with Goethe, page 9)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,269



- ACROSS**
- Getting better conscience after I left without a word of farewell (13).
 - Trip cooked with peas for a hors-d'oeuvre (9).
 - Composition of a witicism — and in Latin (5).
 - Votes against and for the poet (5).
 - Notes in front (4).
 - Fratricide one put in prison (4).
 - Soldier enters a pub — that's reasonable (7).
 - Transport system takes on Greek character to provide air passages (7).
 - Time of one's life chasing a bird in this resort (7).
 - For Drummond it's uncommonly dull in peat country (7).

- A capital lot of players, too! (4).
- What the peer uses for duelling (4).
- A beast, to ruin a trip (5).
- The hum of a bee (5).
- Refuse car modification to avoid damage from rutted roads (9).
- Pretenders to the Baratarian throne (3,10).
- Centrally spacious UK resorts (7).
- Nimble, like Jack Frost (5).
- Lion is a cat violently opposed to mankind (10).
- "I have been half in love with Death" (Keats) (7).
- Grain a horse found in a pipe (4-3).
- How unfeeling to upset a French doctor! (4).
- Literally The Fourth Door describes the subject of hypnosis (9).
- Instructions to bankers — to pay for customers' drinks? (8,6).
- Security for money subsequently found in fossil fuel (10).
- Plant yielding salt grows wild (9).
- Grass makes part of its contents (7).
- Fortunate to have a smaller amount in retirement (7).
- Name this river outside one's front door (5).
- Stoddy, say, this ancient advice (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- KALONG**
- The morally beautiful
 - A Malayan basketweave palanquin
 - The fruit bat
- DOITED**
- Induced by age
 - Having a desire
 - Devoted to be wished
- TRANSHUMANCE**
- Shift of grazing
 - The migration of souls
 - The whole human race
- FUCHIA**
- The evening primrose
 - A Buddhist novice monk
 - Wasting company time

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C, London (within N & S Circ.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T... 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23/M4 735
M25 London Orbital Only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 20

WEATHER

England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have a day of sunny intervals and showers. The showers will be widespread by the afternoon and heavy in places, with some hail or sleet over hills in the north and west of England and Wales. Scotland will have a showery day, with the heaviest falling as sleet or snow. There will be gales in the north and west. Outlook: sunny intervals and showers.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

MEDITERRANEAN (1-100)

Scandinavia (1-100)

North America (1-100)

Africa (1-100)

South America (1-100)

Oceania (1-100)

Antarctica (1-100)

Other Regions (1-100)

Met Office (1-100)

Executive Editor
 David Brewerton
 CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
 1.8425 (+0.0040)

W German mark
 2.7487 (-0.0286)

Exchange index
 87.0 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
 174.0 (+0.8)

FT-SE 100
 2222.1 (+1.0)

USM (Datavstream)
 140.82 (-0.47)

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 16 1990

SECTION 2

Jury is still out in the water meter trials

By Graham Seargent
 Financial Editor

THE prospect of a hot dry summer will evoke mixed feelings in the Isle of Wight, where one of the most extensive water metering trials in the country threatens to change the habits of summer. The springtime filling of the garden pool has become a potentially agonising consumer choice and watering the flower beds against drought a decision affecting the family budget.

Under the experimental charging system introduced by Southern Water, each extra cubic metre of water used above an annual 90 cubic metres costs the consumer 111.5p, equivalent to 11p a bath and about 2p a flush. This excludes the cost of installing, servicing and reading meters, which is not being charged to affected customers during

the trials. One retired *Times* reader fears his prized back garden pool will literally have to be put out to grass — and the grass may not be green.

Mr David Gadsbury, of Southern Water, who is responsible for national metering trials, estimates that a small three-by-six metre pool would cost £40 for the initial summer filling and a lawn sprinkler 80p an hour. He says customers have responded more favourably to metering than expected but he has no sympathy for swimming pool owners.

"If they want to own a swimming pool they must pay the true cost," he says, emphasizing that, during the trials, water suppliers will not raise their total revenue as a result of metering.

Whether 111.5p per cubic metre is "the

true cost" has, however, yet to be decided. One reason for the trials is to experiment with different charging systems.

Wessex Water is conducting two different trials in the Poole area. On a public housing estate, consumers pay a straight charge per cubic metre while in affluent Broadstone, charges vary widely according to the time of day, to flatten the early evening peak when garden watering coincides with children's baths.

The interim report on the trials is due in two months' time. It will reveal a series of problems that could tilt the balance further against universal metering as a successor to the water and sewerage rate, which must be phased out in the wake of property rates.

On the Isle of Wight, the metering programme, which was due to be complete

by April 1, is between six and nine months behind schedule, with consequent increased costs.

Mr Colin Skellern, chief executive of Wessex Water, says that the variable tariff units in Broadstone have run into teething troubles. Some meters have physically not worked and read-outs have, in some cases, been unreliable.

A more general conflict has arisen between internal meters, which cost more to read and install but are preferred by many customers, and cheaper external meters, which raise problems over paying for leakage.

That conflict is sharpest for blocks of flats, or multi-occupied houses, where economic efficiency could run up against the duty of Mr Ian Bryant, the director-

general of Water Services, to resist discrimination between customers.

Some water service groups, such as Yorkshire Water and Welsh Water, have said they do not want to charge domestic customers by universal metering. Either way, water suppliers seem likely to remain an exception to the normal commercial drive, shared by other utilities, to sell customers more.

One of the main motives for metering in much of the country is to cut peak demand in order to avoid even higher costs of investment to expand supplies.

Investment costs are eventually passed on to the customers, but it would be hard for suppliers to ask Mr Bryant for higher charges to recoup revenue lost if metering cut use.

Bank steps in to ease B&C fears

By Angela Mackay

THE Bank of England yesterday said British & Commonwealth's computer leasing arm, Atlantic Computers, had financial problems. City analysts believe these will cause large write-offs when B&C announces 1989 results on April 26.

The Bank's highly unusual intervention was intended to be supportive, since B&C operates money broking and banking businesses under Bank supervision.

B&C, led by Mr John Gunn, chief executive, paid £407 million for Atlantic Computers in July 1988 but the company's performance has been disappointing since. Profits are down and market share has been eroded by competition from IBM.

B&C is expected to make substantial provisions for Atlantic and possibly allow for potential losses on local authority interest rate swaps and an exceptional provision relating to "loans" made to its employee share scheme.

The Bank of England, however, stressed that B&C's other businesses were sound.

"We understand there are problems at Atlantic but as far as the Bank is aware the other trading companies are trading in compliance with regulatory requirements," it said.

Mr Gunn was at B&C's City offices in King Street yesterday but did not comment.

B&C's recent history depicts a roller-coaster ride of fortune. It became a stock market favourite in 1986 and 1987 when Mr Gunn took the helm, switched from asset-rich business to financial services and bought out the Cayzer family in a deal that involved

RISE AND FALL

- October 1986: John Gunn, former Exco International chief, appointed chief executive. B&C shares at 240p.
- November 1986: B&C buys rest of Steel Brothers, overseas trader, for £45m, and Exco, money broker, for £372m.
- March 1987: 251m paid for RIM, bond broker. Shares at 380p.
- April 1987: B&C Merchant Bank set up with capital of £100m.
- June 1987: B&C's founders, the Cayzer family, withdraw investment. Three-year deal nets them £22.5m. Lord Cayzer retires as chairman, after 30 years, succeeded by Gunn.
- July 1987: Agreed £490m bid for Mercantile House, financial services group. Shares hit peak of 564p.
- September 1987: Interim profits of £71.1m and £187m bid for Abaco, professional services company.
- March 1988: Quadrex Holdings sued for failure to complete £230m buy of wholesale money broker MW Marshall, of Exco.
- April 1988: Full-year profits rise to £130.9m despite £45m provision for losses on Kalles, the US commodity trader set up by Gunn in 1985. Shares at 272p.
- June 1988: Gunn achieves aim of B&C owning business limited to financial services with the £359m MBO of Bricom, the transport and commercial services division.
- July 1988: £407m agreed bid for Atlantic Computers, third biggest computer leasing company. Shares at 240p.
- September 1988: Interim profits up 17 per cent to £22.9m.
- October 1988: Purchase of Hoare Govett's private client business for about £5m.
- November 1988: B&C wins £100m in damages against Quadrex Holdings. Quadrex appeals.
- December 1988: High Court grants B&C interim damages of £27.5m. Reduced to £20m on appeal.
- February 1989: MW Marshall sold to management for £174m.
- April 1989: Full-year profits fall 6 per cent to £122.8m.
- May 1989: Fundament Brothers closed with loss of 111 jobs.
- September 1989: Interim profits fall 48 per cent to £34.4m.
- November 1989: B&C plans £400m asset sale. Shares at 85p.
- December 1989: Sale of leasing company, losses £49m.
- March 1990: Gunn takes £400,000 pay cut to £300,000 and sells remaining stake in Bricom for £22m and receives £130m from sale of Quadrex, the funds manager, to Indosuez.
- April 1990: Shares at 53p. Quadrex case resumes. Atlantic Leasing identified as big loss-maker. Full-year profits on April 26.

Income Bonds cut outflow in National Savings to £271m

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

WITHDRAWALS from fixed-interest certificates of almost £400 million contributed to another sharp drop in National Savings of £271 million in March, helping to cut the total investments in the Department of Savings by £1.6 billion to £35.3 billion in the year to end-March.

The monthly fall would have been much worse but for a record demand for Income Bonds, which attracted £261.4 million net in the run up to independent taxation. The

Investment Account, which had its interest rate boosted to 12.75 per cent from

April 3, had receipts of £174.4 million in March. This gross paid account was also a likely beneficiary from the five million new non-taxpayers created by independent taxation.

During the year to the end of March £2.8 billion was withdrawn from fixed interest certificates reducing the total invested to £8.6 billion. A large proportion of the withdrawals were from the 26th Issue, which matured last summer and now earn just 5.01 per cent.

Soviet officials said they would recommend the takeover. (Reuters)

Sleeping sickness grips Wall St

US NOTEBOOK

property and LBO write-offs into the commercial banks. Therefore, commercial banks are being driven into major write-offs of bad loans and into losses. The object is to kill lending to limit, at a pre-bankruptcy stage, the actual and potential losses that will be borne by the FDIC. Thus, the S&L collapse is killing commercial bank lending.

2. The persistent and urgent need for cash by the Resolution Trust Corporation for S&Ls to help big issues of T-bills by the Treasury and to the failed Refco 40-year debt auctions, which are in turn souring the whole bond market.

This is keeping short-term commercial interest rates higher than would otherwise be the case.

3. Property markets and junk bonds are being depressed by knowledge of the enormous overhang of junk bonds and junk property in the RTC portfolio. This in turn is undermining the balance sheets of the commercial banks, the insurance companies and pension funds.

4. A depressing influence is the knowledge that the federal budget deficit has sunk back into a critical condition — something Mr Charles Bowsher, head of the General Accounting Office, has been

hammering in public, to the embarrassment of the White House.

5. There are more insistent demands for tax increases — both from Mr Dan Rostenkowski, Democratic Congressman for Illinois, and now from Mr Bawsher. If they do not happen at the federal level, they will happen at state and local level as the federal government withdraws more and more funding of state and local projects to offload its own problems. State and local finances are failing ever deeper into deficit.

The Federal Reserve knows how rickety US banks are. So does the stock market which has hit their share price. The debt markets have also hit banks' bonds. And the ratings agencies have been downgrading all sort of bank debt.

But if this represents any sort of temptation to the central bank to ease, the bond market is saying "don't try it." As Japanese and German bond markets still seem to want to fall further, there is a real possibility that the long bond yield, now just over 8% per cent, could reach 9 per cent before the issue is settled by a big drop in what is perceived as a vulnerable stock market.

Maxwell Newton

New York

Thorntons' eggs roll into Paris

ADRIAN BROOKS

FRENCH chocolate-lovers were able to enjoy Thorntons chocolate eggs for the first time this Easter. More than 50,000 of the 2 million Thorntons eggs sold this year were bought across the Channel.

M Jerome Dillard, marketing director of Thorntons' operations in France, says the French taste in chocolate is slightly different from that of the British. Customers at Thorntons' 64 shops in Paris and northern France like dark chocolate eggs and prefer to choose their own fillings.

Mr John Thornton, chairman and chief executive of Thorntons, which bought two French confectionery retailers for £8.65 million last August, says the group targeted France for its European expansion because although less chocolate is consumed there than in Britain, the market is growing rapidly. The French business had sales of £8.5 million in 1989.

Thorntons has completed most of the rationalization of its French acquisition, and has disposed of some assets, including the Candice group head office. The 48 confectionery shops will trade under the Martini name and the first new-look Martini shop will open in September. The 18 ice-cream shops will continue to trade under the Sunset name.

Although Thorntons is introducing its own lines into the French shops it will keep the traditional sales balance of 23 per cent chocolate, 25 per cent sugared almonds, 25 per cent ice-cream and 25 per cent sugared confectionery.

Once sales of UK products in France have been raised as far as possible, the Martini concept will be rolled out nationwide. Mr Thornton says eventually the group could have a French chain of a similar size to the UK business. Thorntons has 334 shops in the UK, 132 of which are franchises, and it has targeted a further 150 sites.

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Advertising agencies are waiting to hear who has won the account for the riskiest privatization

Meter is running for the big power sell

FOR some of the boys in the proverbial bow-ties and blue-tinted spectacles, now is an anxious time. At stake is the estimated £20 million of work the advertising industry can hope for from the £10 billion-plus privatization of the power industry.

The trick is to come up with another winning formula, after "Tell Sid" sold British Gas and "Be an HsOwner" the water industry.

The Department of Energy has winnowed the list down to four agencies: the inevitable Saatchis, J Walter Thompson, which is owned by Mr Martin Sorrell's WPP Group, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, part of WCRS Group, and the only private agency to get through, Collett Dickenson Pearce.

Advisors to the float joke of the wine-making efforts already consigned to the bin — "Plug Into Electricity," "It's Shocking" and "Socket to Me" are just three of the worst.

The final "beauty contest" will be around April 27, and the winner will know the good news early next month. The nation will have to wait until September, two months before the first flotation in the privatization programme, before the first advertisements run.

The appointment of an advertising agency is another step along the path towards what is the most complex, the least understood and possibly the most risky of the Government's share issues.

Giant utilities such as British Telecom and British Gas could lumber largely unchanged into public ownership, provided the necessary regulatory restraints to prevent abuse of their various monopoly positions had been put in place.

The 10 water authorities already covered clearly defined areas of the country which they retained, and they could be marketed to the City simply as yield stocks.

But the Government's task with power is to dismantle a complex industry that even privatization's supporters accept is not best structured to allow the importation of competition. It has to do this against a backdrop of mounting hostility from the Labour Party, which is still likely to have a commanding lead in the opinion polls when the float starts, adding to the perception of political risk among investors.

The industry has to be put back together again in a shape that allows free market principles to rein in the monopolistic impulses of the big players. In particular, it must encourage sufficient generation of



Stephen Littlechild: privatized power's watchdog

electricity by private concerns to break the stranglehold of the big generators.

Decisions still need to be made over the power float. At its simplest, the aim is to have 12 distribution companies which cover England and Wales and supply the power direct to the consumer. There will be two big generators who will provide the power. The link between them will be the National Grid.

Up to Vesting Day on March 31 the generating side was under the control of the Central Electricity Generating Board, while the local distribution boards were freestanding. They were also the industry's closest link to the ultimate consumer as the body to whom the bills were payable, and its shop window through their retail arms with outlets in most high streets.

Marketing men see this separate corporate identity for the distributors, or discos, as an advantage in selling the issues. It is an advantage that should not be overstressed; few people's perception of their local electricity showroom is favourable, as they have largely lagged behind the 1980s retail revolution.

The two great unanswered questions are the eventual capital structure of the two generators and the discos and how much of them will actually be sold off. The capital

structure — effectively, how much debt the Government leaves the companies with once they are floated — is likely to be announced within the next month. The decision whether to float all the companies or just a 51 per cent stake in them can easily be left until September at the earliest.

The Government will almost certainly sell all 12 discos outright. Even if the market is weak, the administrative disadvantages of being left

All 12 discos will almost certainly be sold outright

with minority stakes in 12 smaller companies will probably outweigh any financial gain that might be won from holding half of each until stock market conditions improve.

But there is an argument for retaining part of the generators, if only because of their size. Earlier privatizations have taken place in chunks, and the Government retains the option of limiting the damage, if the market takes a turn for the worse, without too much loss of face.

This would be unpopular in the City. There would be concern about any future government interference, it would seem to make the businesses

easier to take back under state control — perhaps £5.5 billion, to come to the market in November. With one exception, they divide neatly into three categories and are likely to be perceived that way by the City. Four rely heavily on the domestic use, and a large number of contracts with private generators, experience which is likely to be useful after the float.

• National Power, the largest, whose almost 30 gigawatts of generating capacity represents slightly more than half the country's total. Mr John Baker, a former CEBG man, is chief executive, but the chairman's seat is vacant after the abrupt resignation of Lord Marshall in December.

• PowerGen, with almost 19 gigawatts, where Mr Robert Malpas, formerly managing director of BPE, takes the chair, with Mr Ed Wallis also ex-CEBG, as chief executive.

It was the hiving-off of the nuclear stations into a third company, Nuclear Electric, which will not be sold to the public, that prompted the departure of Lord Marshall, a proponent of nuclear power. That decision was only one of a number aimed at making the float more palatable to investors. The latest was permission for the generators to cut by almost half a clean-up programme prompted by the European Community to reduce acid rain.

The increased cannot be passed on to the consumer and must effectively be absorbed by the generators.

The four biased towards the domestic consumer are:

• Eastern Electricity — largest in area and with the most customers. Its high-profile chairman, Mr James Smith, is something of a spokesman for the discos. Low X factor,

in turnover terms and the most industrially biased.

• Northern Electric, half of whose load goes to industrial consumers. Perhaps particularly prone to losing demand to own-generation schemes.

• Yorkshire Electricity, with a good record for attracting heavy industry and in an area rich in natural resources such as coal, oil and gas which is likely to tempt it to generate at least part of its supply itself.

The three boards whose customer base is fairly evenly balanced are:

• Norweb, with a strong retailing arm and the first board to sign an agreement to take power from an independent generator, Lakeland Power, which will provide 7 per cent of its requirements.

• Midland Electricity, which already operates two small combined heat and power stations in its area, a possible pointer to the future.

• East Midlands Electricity, one of the biggest, and known to be keen to encourage private generation of power.

The twelve discos, worth perhaps £5.5 billion, to come to the market in November. With one exception, they divide neatly into three categories and are likely to be perceived that way by the City. Four rely heavily on the domestic use, and a large number of contracts with private generators, experience which is likely to be useful after the float.

• South Eastern Electricity Board, or Seaboard, with the highest proportion of domestic customers. Mild weather particularly hits discos with domestic bias, and last summer was bad news for Seaboard. But it has the Channel Tunnel, with vast power needs, in its area.

• South West Electricity, with high population growth and a good record for attracting industry.

The National Grid Company, the final element in the equation, will be jointly owned by all the discos.

The main new competitive element in the industry's restructuring is the Pounding and Settlement Agreement, a document which governs the way electricity is traded within the system between generators and discos. It effectively sets up a new market in power; broadly, all generators will have to publish the quantity and price of the power available each day, while the NGC will allow the discos to satisfy their needs at the best price.

The restructuring applies entirely to the CEBG and so excludes Scotland, which has its own generating structure.

The two Scottish boards, ScottishPower and Hydro-Electric, have been pushed to the back of the privatization queue and will be floated, for more than £1 billion, in June. This has led to some anxiety between the Department of Energy and the Scottish Office.

Patrolling the new structure is Professor Stephen Littlechild, the first director-general of Electricity Supply. He heads the Office of Electricity Regulation and his job is largely to promote competition and ensure the consumer does not get a raw deal.

Martin Waller

Property lending by banks slows

By Matthew Reed

BANK lending to property companies has risen to £24 billion, according to the estate agent Hillier Parker.

But the rate at which lending is increasing is slowing down.

Compared with a high point of 61 per cent in the second quarter of last year, the year-on-year increase has now fallen to 44 per cent, which is the lowest increase for nearly three years.

In spite of the sharp increase in lending to property companies by foreign banks, British banks still have a 57 per cent share of the total amount loaned.

Japanese and American banks have shares of 10.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

However, with the traditional final owners of property developments — the pension funds and insurance companies — now boycotting property, there will be a growing number of property companies seeking to replace short-term construction loans from banks with medium-term bank finance.

Such refinancing could obscure the banks' increasingly cautious attitude to lending to property companies.

Mr Bill Ruskin of Hillier Parker Financial Services says: "Net institutional investment into property is expected to remain at a low level until the current movement in yields is perceived by the market to have ceased."

"Given the institutional market, some refinancing will be necessary, which will to some extent mask the underlying trend of bank lending."

Last week a report from a credit-rating agency gave warning that British clearing banks could lose £750 million on bad property loans over the next two years, while foreign banks, which came to the lending market later, could lose even more.

But total lending is certain to grow as more developments work their way through the pipeline.

Last week, a report from Jones Lang Wootton showed that at the end of last year property development in London was at its highest level since 1983.

Despite the prolonged period of economic adversity, it had increased by 19 per cent in six months to 17.5 million sq ft.

GILT-EDGED

Forecasting errors can prove to be good news

By Graham Searjeant

PRICE Waterhouse, the international accountancy partnership, is planning a drive to expand its corporate finance and privatization advice business throughout Europe in competition with banks.

Mr Howard Hyman, who built up PW's privatization department, and has been appointed to a new post as partner in charge of corporate finance across Europe, said: "We hope to build corporate finance into a fourth leg of Price Waterhouse to stand alongside management consultancy, audit and tax and make a material contribution to the firm's profits."

PW has a substantial corporate finance business in Britain, especially from management buyouts, including the Marshalls money broking business, and inter-company deals. The division will also include corporate finance activities in Spain and the London-based privatization department.

"My aim is to build out from the base of our two established corporate finance practices to other key territories, notably France, Germany, Italy and Holland," Mr Hyman said.

The privatization advice department is also expanding in Eastern Europe.

Mr Hyman stressed that corporate finance advice, like privatization work, would be quite separate from any management consultancy involved or from acting as reporting accountants.

He said PW wanted corporate finance executives in all main centres and would have an advantage over merchant bank rivals because it already had established partnerships in continental countries.

It will target cross-border deals and financing. PW will also pitch for advice business on stock market deals but will not act as an underwriter or lender. Mr Hyman said this could now be an advantage as it avoided conflicts of interest over the terms of acquisitions or flotations.

We are at the stage of the economic cycle where default risk is rising and consequently suppliers of credit are becoming more risk-averse.

But there is a potentially more important effect. Independently of any incentives introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr John Major, in the Budget, there are indications that people are now prepared to save more.

We would attribute this as much to the decline in

house prices as to the continuation of high real interest rates. For many years people have regarded their houses (and their pensions) as "savings" and have not been inclined to allocate discretionary "top-ups".

The forecasting errors to date have been negative for the bond markets. Since errors are still likely, we are at the point when they become positive for the market!

Accordingly the greatest forecasting error was the underestimation of the demand for credit: first from households and then companies.

Past relationships with interest rates and incomes provided no accurate guide. Indeed, for some years over the past decade the interest rate elasticity of demand for credit was positive, creating an increased demand for credit when interest rates went up.

The blame for this lies with the deregulation of financial services, a sector which is much larger in Britain than in other industrialized nations.

This increased the supply of credit at every level of interest rates. Given the uncertainties that can be created by such a supply shift, it is debatable whether anyone could have foreseen such a dramatic result.

However, there is evidence that the supply of credit is falling.

We are at the stage of the economic cycle where default risk is rising and consequently suppliers of credit are becoming more risk-averse.

But there is a potentially more important effect. Independently of any incentives introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr John Major, in the Budget, there are indications that people are now prepared to save more.

We would attribute this as much to the decline in

the potential consequences of "positive" forecasting errors.

The gilt market has been reluctant to accept this scenario and with good reason.

Inflation remains a concern. The much longer time-lags in this cycle between the peak in economic activity and an easing of pressures on wage rates have kept inflation indicators at the top of the list of market sensitivities.

There are very few who believe the forecasting errors on inflation will now prove to be positive. Yet, despite the inflation shocks of recent years, the degree of certainty about the British inflation outlook is stunning.

Using the consensus forecasts for the major economies provided by Consensus Economics Inc, we can analyse expectations.

The standardized variance of inflation forecasts for Britain in 1990 is lower than both Germany and Japan and on a par with the United States, which has experienced a very stable inflation profile.

By contrast, the degree of uncertainty about Britain's growth prospects this year is the highest of the Group of Seven economies and, perhaps most surprising of all, is even higher than next year's, where forecasters universally expect a modest recovery.

Consequently, we believe the market's sensitivity to the evidence of the real economy is very great at present and probably greater than its sensitivity to the inflation indicators. When evidence that the private sector deficit is reducing begins to emerge, we would expect a more bullish profile for short-term interest rates.

Michael Hughes
BZW Economics & Strategy

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Proper lending by bank slows

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report April 16 1990

Court of Appeal

Test for giving life prisoner parole

Rogers v. Parole Board, Ex parte Bradley
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Simon Brown
(Judgment April 4)

The test to be applied by the Parole Board when deciding whether to recommend for parole a prisoner serving a discretionary life sentence was not the same as that applied when the sentence was imposed but was a lower test, less favourable to the prisoner, even when he had completed his tariff; the period to be served to satisfy the requirements of deterrence and rehabilitation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when refusing to grant judicial review of the board's refusal to recommend the applicant, William Bradley, to the Home Secretary for release on licence and their refusal to disclose their reasons. Their Lordships also refused to order discovery of report prepared for the board.

The Parole Board, set up under the Criminal Justice Act 1967, advised the Home Secretary on the release on licence of those serving life sentences and the Home Secretary would not release a prisoner on licence unless recommended to do so.

The applicant, born in February 1958, was in February 1975 convicted of the rape of a girl aged 15 and sentenced to three months' detention. In April 1976 he committed offences of indecent assault and assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a girl aged 14 and attempted murder of a girl aged 17 in May of that year.

For the latter he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was recorded by police as saying he wanted "...to see what it was like to kill someone".

After the first review for parole the board in June 1986 decided not to recommend the applicant. In August and November 1986 he was seen by a consultant forensic psychiatrist who reported to the board

"In my opinion there is no evidence to suggest that he would present a danger if he were released."

The board again refused to recommend him the following year and in reply to his request for the reasons for the decision he was told by the Home Secretary that it was likely that the "...board were not satisfied, taking account of the nature of your offence as well as your progress in prison, that any risk to the public which might result from your release was at an acceptable level."

Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the applicant: Mr David Paunick for the board.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, giving the judgment of the court, said that review for parole was set to begin three years before the time when the prisoner would have served the tariff, the period of time which was advised by the Home Secretary by the Lord Chief Justice and the trial judge as being that which should be served to satisfy the requirements of deterrence and rehabilitation.

Once the applicant had satisfied the tariff his continued detention could only depend on the ground of risk.

The issue of what should be the test of dangerousness applied to discretionary life prisoners in the post-tariff period and what degree of risk justified continued detention did not appear to have arisen before.

Mr Fitzgerald contended for a test of "likelihood" that the prisoner would probably commit further serious offences (injury to life or limb or serious damage) if released.

The test stated to be fit in fact adopted by the board was of "the risk to the public in relation to (the prisoner's) dangerousness in the community and whether any such risk was acceptable. In the present case dangerousness relates to the risk of him causing death or serious injury or sexual assault if released."

But once lawfully imposed the life sentence then justified the prisoner's continued detention

Mr Fitzgerald said the test should be no lower than that applied when the discretionary life sentence was imposed. No less stringent test ought to be applied at the later stage of the board's decision whether the requirements of punishment having been satisfied, confirmed imprisonment was justified.

His Lordship said that it was one thing to say that only the likelihood (in the sense of probability) of further serious offending justified the imposition of a life sentence. It might clearly recognize the price which the prisoner personally was paying in order to give proper effect to the interests of public safety.

They should recognize too that it was a progressively higher price. The longer the prisoner served beyond the tariff period the clearer should be the board's perception of public risk as to whether there was an intention to touch with the applicant.

In the absence of any clear explanation of motivation the offence clearly indicated a danger to the public. It did not follow that because the applicant had served a period in prison to satisfy the tariff he presented less of a danger.

It had been clear that the board had attached significance to the applicant's comment to the police that he had returned to see what was the test controlling the imposition of discretionary life sentence.

The test stated to be fit in fact adopted by the board was of "the risk to the public in relation to (the prisoner's) dangerousness in the community and whether any such risk was acceptable. In the present case dangerousness relates to the risk of him causing death or serious injury or sexual assault if released."

The imposition of a life sentence could only be justified by a very high degree of perceived public danger.

But once lawfully imposed the life sentence then justified the prisoner's continued detention

Court must make clear reasons for young offender's sentence

Rogers v. Clarke (Gary)

When young offenders were being dealt with by the imposition of a custodial sentence it was important that the sentencing court should carefully follow the wording of section 1(4)(a) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, as amended by section 123(3) of the 1988 Act.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Wright) so stated on April 11 when allowing an appeal by Gary Clarke against a sentence of 12 months to a total sentence of 18 months a total sentence of 18 months in a young offender institution imposed on November 2, 1989, in the Liverpool Crown Court by Judge Hamilton, following the appellant's plea of guilty to two offences of burglary.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that it was of great concern to the court that in the

period of only a few weeks, to the continuing knowledge of two of their Lordships, no fewer than five cases of failure to comply with the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the 1982 Act as amended had engaged the court's attention. Those failures had varied from a total disregard of the partial disregard presently before their Lordships.

If the statutory requirements were carefully followed the task of the Court of Appeal would be made a great deal easier.

In the circumstances their Lordships took the view that a sentence of 18 months on the second indictment was longer than would be required and it should be reduced to 12 months.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor.

Investigators must observe code

Rogers v. Twaites

Before Lord Justice Stocker, Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Hidden
(Reasons April 11)

Commercial investigators inquiring into alleged irregularities which might have disclosed criminal offences in a betting shop, were obliged to comply with Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (56 Codes of Practice).

The Court of Appeal so held when giving reasons for allowing, on February 11, an appeal by Jacques and Anne Twaites and Derek Philip Brown against their convictions on March 2, 1989, at Sandbrook Crown Court (Judge Lockhart and a jury) of attempted theft, on which they were each sentenced

to 18 months imprisonment, of which nine months was suspended.

Section 67 of the 1984 Act provides: "(9) Persons other than police officers who are charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders shall in the discharge of that duty have regard to any relevant provision of such a code."

Mr Ian Copeman, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Twaites; Mr Christopher Baum, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Brown; Mr Charles Salmon for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE STOCKER said that it was submitted that the judge had erred in permitting the Crown to adduce evidence of oral and written

admissions made by Twaites, and implicating Brown, during interviews conducted at his employer's offices by them in investigations after, to their knowledge, she had been arrested, interviewed by the police without making any admissions, and placed on bail pending their further inquiries.

No formal inquiry was made with regard to that although the investigators seemed to behave as if they were so engaged on the scope of their inquiries reached the point of taking the statement which could be used in a prosecution.

In failing to consider section 67(9), the judge misdirected himself, and the verdicts were unsafe and unsatisfactory and had to be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, London North.

Human Rights Law Report

Right to impart ideas not infringed by ban on cable retransmission

Groppera Radio AG and Others v Switzerland (Case No 14/1988/158/214).

Before R Ryssdal, President and Judges J Cremona, Thor Vilhjalmsson, D Bindeschneider-Robert, F Golucko, F Mätscher, J Pinheiro Farinha, L-E Pettit, R Walsh, Sir Vincent Evans, R Macdonald, C Russo, R Bernhard, A Speckmann, S K Martens, E Palm and Mr I Fougher
(Judgment March 26)

The applicants' right to impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers, as guaranteed in article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, had not been infringed by Switzerland and with respect to a ban on cable retransmission in Switzerland of programmes broadcast from Italy.

A prohibition by Swiss authorities of retransmission by cable companies with community-antenna licences of radio programmes which did not comply with requirements of international agreements on radio and telecommunications was permissible under paragraph 1 in fine of article 10 of the Convention and satisfied the requirements of paragraph 2 of that article.

Article 10 provides: "1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or communications enterprises."

"2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or pen-

alties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

From October 1983 onwards Groppera Radio AG, a limited company incorporated under Swiss law, used a powerful transmitter on the Pizzo Groppera in Italy to broadcast radio programmes to listeners in Switzerland. The programmes were received by the owners of private radio sets and, to begin with, by cable-network companies which retransmitted them.

On January 1, 1984, however, an Ordinance adopted by the Federal Council in August 1983 came into force, prohibiting Swiss cable companies which had a community-antenna licence from rebroadcasting programmes from transmitters which did not satisfy the requirements of the international agreements on radio and telecommunications. Most of the companies complied.

One of them (the community-antenna cooperative of Maur and the surrounding district), which had continued broadcasting, nonetheless received an order from the Zurich telecommunications office and thereafter from the head office of the national post and telecommunications authority (PTT).

Subsequently the cooperative brought an administrative law appeal in the Federal Court, and Groppera Radio joined those proceedings.

It found that the applicants had been directly affected by the 1983 Ordinance and the decisions of the PTT, even if those had not formally been directed

at them. The object, purpose and scope of the third sentence of article 10, paragraph 1, had, however, to be considered in the context of the article as a whole and in particular in relation to the

content of the official collection of federal statutes, how they could be obtained. Nor could it be said

Subjective intention not best test

Cloverhay Ltd v. Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice McCowan
(Judgment March 29)

Where the court was invited to carry out the balancing exercise between legitimate conflicting interests of both prisoner and public.

They must clearly recognize the price which the prisoner personally was paying in order to give proper effect to the interests of public safety.

They should recognize too that it was a progressively higher price. The longer the prisoner served beyond the tariff period the clearer should be the board's perception of public risk to touch with the applicant.

As to the decision being taken, the court rejected the submission that it must be so prima facie since it included rejection of all the advice from those who had seen and been in touch with the applicant.

In the absence of any clear explanation of motivation the offence clearly indicated a danger to the public. It did not follow that because the applicant had served a period in prison to satisfy the tariff he presented less of a danger.

It had been clear that the board had attached significance to the applicant's comment to the police that he had returned to see what was the test controlling the imposition of discretionary life sentence.

The test stated to be fit in fact adopted by the board was of "the risk to the public in relation to (the prisoner's) dangerousness in the community and whether any such risk was acceptable. In the present case dangerousness relates to the risk of him causing death or serious injury or sexual assault if released."

But once lawfully imposed the life sentence then justified the prisoner's continued detention

as per the court's reasoning.

Section 236 provides: "(2) The court may, on the application of the officer holding, summon to appear before it – (a) any officer of the company, (b) any person known or suspected to have in his possession any property of the company, or intended to be delivered to it by the company, or (c) any person whom the court thinks capable of giving information concerning the promotion, formation, business, dealings, affairs or property of the company."

As to the failure of the board to disclose reasons, Mr Fitzgerald accepted that unless it could be distinguished, the binding authority of Payne v Lord Harris of Greenwich (1981) 1 WLR 754 meant they did not have to.

There was no suggestion that they were saying applied only to mandatory life sentences and the reasoning of the judge applied equally to those and discretionary life sentences.

The court for discovery of reports including psychiatric reports and the reasons of the board for refusing recommendation was refused.

There was no dispute of fact. Either the recommendation to have the applicant released on parole was perverse on its face for the reasons advanced by Mr Fitzgerald or it was not either the test applied by the board was wrong in law or it was not.

The court would not order discovery if that was in effect the very relief sought in the substantive application and which could not be granted because of the decision in Payne's case.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor.

Unfair prosecution of motorist

Regina v. Forest of Dean Justices, Ex parte Farley

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Garland
(Judgment April 11)

It would be oppressive and unfair for a defendant to be prosecuted for driving with excess alcohol so that the prosecution could use the conviction on that charge to found a further prosecution for causing death by reckless driving in which the only recklessness alleged would be the fact of having driven after drinking.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on an application for judicial review of the Forest of Dean Justices from proceeding against John Patrick Farley on a charge of driving with excess alcohol, contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted by Schedule 5 of the Transport Act 1981, until after his trial for causing death by reckless driving contrary to section 1 of the 1972 Act, as substituted by section 50 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Miss Tacey Cronin for the applicant; Mr T. Alun Jenkins for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said the applicant had been drinking with friends on November 5, 1988. He had given two young girls lift in his vehicle. The vehicle had turned over at the bottom of a hill and one of the girls was killed.

The applicant had left the scene and later telephoned the police. He was not breathalysed until the following morning, when his blood alcohol level was just below the statutory limit.

The prosecution proposed to call evidence before the justices

Following the discovery of apparent irregularities, proceedings were commenced in the Commercial Court in July 1987 and orders were obtained requiring the production of certain documents which included cheques drawn by Cloverhay in favour of persons who, on investigation, claimed to have no knowledge of Cloverhay.

Joint administrators were appointed and they obtained an ex parte order under section 236 requiring BCCI to produce all books, records and memoranda relating to dealings with Cloverhay's accounts with

rule for carrying out that balancing exercise where there was a real possibility that the person seeking an order for examination would start an action against the person sought to be examined.

It appeared that since that decision a practice had grown up of putting in evidence stating whether or not the applicant had reached a firm decision whether or not to sue. In practice it appeared that the grant or refusal of an order under section 236 had come largely to depend upon that point.

Experience had shown that that test was unsatisfactory for it depended upon the subjective state of mind of the liquidator or administrator in each case. There must be a temptation to seek to get as much information as possible before taking a decision whether or not to sue.

The more information there was to the facts and possible defences to the better informed would be the decision and the greater likelihood of such a decision being correct.

Following that advice the joint administrators applied and obtained an order from a registrar of the Companies Court for the oral examination under section 236(2) of Mr. H. Rizbi and Mr. M. Malik, managers at the branch of BCCI where Cloverhay's accounts were held.

Although the words of section 236(2) conferred a general discretion on the court, over the years the courts had given some guidance as to the proper exercise of that discretion.

Most of the relevant authorities were cited by Mr Justice Slade in *Re Castle New Homes Ltd* (1979) 1 WLR 1075.

The exercise of the discretion involved the balancing of the requirements, on the one hand, of the liquidator or administrator to obtain information against the person sought to be examined.

It was clear that in exercising the discretion the court had to balance the requirements of the liquidator against any possible oppression to the person sought to be examined.

Such balancing depended on the relationship between the importance to the liquidator of

obtaining the information on the one hand and the degree of oppression on the other.

If the information required was fundamental to any assessment of whether or not there was a cause of action and the degree of oppression was small (for example, in the case of ordering premature discovery of documents) the balance would manifestly come down in favour of making the order.

Circumstances might vary infinitely. Few cases would be clear it would be for the judge in each case to reach his own conclusion.

The purpose of section 236 was not to put the company in a better position than it would have enjoyed if liquidation or administration had not intervened. The purpose was to enable the liquid

Talented Taco looks strong contender for Times final

Point-to-point
by Brian Bee

THE TIMES



Point-to-point Championship

in the women's riding championship with a double at this meeting on Femmily in the adjacent and on Mendip Express in the ladies, but it was the men's open which provided the most excitement.

Mayancon and Sir Mahoney had disposed to three out when Damian Douglas brought Coal Kanda smoothly through to look the likely winner on the run to the last. Andrew James, however, conjured up a strong late run on Amul Lark Hope to lead on home and hold off in a dramatic finish.

The winner of the *Times* qualifier at the North Staffordshire, Eastern Chant, ridden by Chris Stockton, had been second twice in similar events in 1988, but broke a blood vessel out hunting last year and his owner, Isabel Dady, decided not to risk racing him that season.

She took the lead at the seventh fence and, after being joined by Dewysn Fox (Julian Pritchard) three out, quickened away approaching the second-last to win by four lengths.

Taco was purchased privately for hunting by her American owner, Duncan McMillan, who was pleased to see when she showed such aptitude on her first racecourse appearance.

After this second success it is fully intended that she will go to Worcester for the final.

Alison Dare extended her lead

Saturday's results

ASHFORD VALLEY (Chepstow): Hunt: Mrs T. Brown. 2. Royal Wonder, 2.10. 3. Royal Prince, 2.05. 4. Royal King, 2.05. 5. Royal Queen, 2.05. 6. Royal Star, 2.05. 7. Royal Queen, 2.05. 8. Royal Prince, 2.05. 9. Royal King, 2.05. 10. Royal Queen, 2.05. 11. Royal Prince, 2.05. 12. Royal King, 2.05. 13. Royal Queen, 2.05. 14. Royal Prince, 2.05. 15. Royal King, 2.05. 16. Royal Queen, 2.05. 17. Royal Prince, 2.05. 18. Royal King, 2.05. 19. Royal Queen, 2.05. 20. Royal Prince, 2.05. 21. Royal King, 2.05. 22. Royal Queen, 2.05. 23. Royal Prince, 2.05. 24. Royal King, 2.05. 25. Royal Queen, 2.05. 26. Royal Prince, 2.05. 27. Royal King, 2.05. 28. Royal Queen, 2.05. 29. Royal Prince, 2.05. 30. Royal King, 2.05. 31. Royal Queen, 2.05. 32. Royal Prince, 2.05. 33. Royal King, 2.05. 34. Royal Queen, 2.05. 35. Royal Prince, 2.05. 36. Royal King, 2.05. 37. Royal Queen, 2.05. 38. Royal Prince, 2.05. 39. Royal King, 2.05. 40. Royal Queen, 2.05. 41. Royal Prince, 2.05. 42. Royal King, 2.05. 43. 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Royal Prince, 2.05. 498. Royal King, 2.05. 499. Royal Queen, 2.05. 500. Royal Prince, 2.05. 501. Royal King, 2.05. 502. Royal Queen, 2.05.

Sharp N' Early to speed home

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

AT THE start of a week that sees him saddle fancied runners for the Craven Stakes (Trot) at Newmarket and the Greenham Stakes (Rock City) at Newbury, Richard Johnson, the successful East Everleigh trainer, is looking to Sharp N' Early to give the stable confidence by winning the Quail Stakes at Kempton Park today.

Two years ago, Sharp N' Early lived up to his name by making a winning racecourse debut on today's track at the start of a season that was destined to see him also win the coveted Gimcrack Stakes at York, setting a new track record in the process.

Last season, he rather lost his way possibly because five

of his seven races were over seven furlongs or a mile, distances arguably beyond a colt with his breeding, by Runmet out of a mare by Windjammer.

Certainly his best performances as a three-year-old were when he was racing over six furlongs, which is the distance of today's race.

On the first occasion he finished sixth in the July Cup at Newmarket; beaten less than six lengths and later he finished third to Cricket Ball in the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville.

Discussing Sharp N' Early yesterday, Hannan said that he has come to the conclusion that he is a sprinter pure and simple, and he is being trained accordingly. He also said that his preparation for today's race has gone so well that he is

optimistic about a successful outcome even though horses of the calibre of Shindiecc Corner, In-Excess and Robellare are among his opponents.

Hannan has a good line on the last two through Osario and Tirof. I also happen to prefer an older horse like Sharp N' Early at this stage of the season, and he is my nap.

Queens Tour has made a trip from Mel Britain's Yorkshire yard to attempt to win the Rosebery Handicap a second time and with considerably less weight on his back compared with when he beat Castle Clown, another runner this afternoon, by two lengths last spring.

In this instance, though, I prefer Biensial and Black Monday.

Over this 10-furlong trip

Biensial could have the edge for it was over this distance that he won the Exel Handicap at Goodwood.

As the winner of his first three races last season, Biensial is clearly a horse who comes to hand easily. He is also an active sort. Today, Tony Clark, who rode him to win twice last year, stands in for Khaled Abdulla's retained jockey Pat Eddery, whose presence is required at Nottingham for Now Listen in the Little John Stakes and Sangamore in the Clubman Graduation Stakes on Glen Kate.

Well that both should go, I believe they both may be beaten by My Sister Ellen (3.45), Henry Cecil's representatives with Steve Cauthen in the saddle.

My Sister Ellen's recent

homework with Chimes Of Freedom and Raahaa has indicated that the talented Now Listen will have a fight on his hands attempting to give her 1lb while Tyburn Tree, an easy winner of his only race at Newbury as a two-year-old, could prove too sharp for Sangamore.

At Warwick, Willie Ryan,

Cauthen's dependable deputy at Warren Place, is given a good chance of winning the Marton Graduation Stakes on Glen Kate.

Carson suspended

Willie Carson was yesterday banned for two days (April 24 and 25) for riding of the really-trained Optimist, a choice mount in the Premium Ambrosiano at San Siro, Milan. Optimist finished first but was placed second, and the race awarded to Tisserand.

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FOOTBALL

Smith avoids any predictions

By Louise Taylor

DRAWING heavily on his post-match cigar, Jim Smith mused on the vagaries of the second division promotion race. In beating Wolverhampton Wanderers, his Newcastle United team may have put itself within hailing distance of an automatic promotion place, but he said: "There are an awful lot of ifs between now and the end of May; everything could still go up in smoke for us."

If Smith's players do the expected and record a sixth successive win at home, to Stoke City, the bottom club, this afternoon, they could be occupying one of the two coveted direct entrances to the first division by tea-time. That will depend on the result from Elland Road, where Yorkshire's match of the season sees Leeds United entertain Sheffield United.

Long regarded as a private affair intended to decide the destiny of the second division title, the fixture has been spiced by the fact that level on 75 points — only three ahead of Newcastle — the pair are no longer confident of joining the League's elite by strolling through the front door.

Marsalled by those arch-pragmatists, Howard Wilkinson and Dave Bassett, who are close friends and live a few hundred yards apart in Shef-

field, both clubs rely on a utilitarian mix of the long ball and offside trap, bolstered by fanatical support, for their success.

The difference is that while Wilkinson has invested millions in Leeds's playing personnel, Bassett has assembled his so-called "allsorts" for next to nothing. One man with a point to prove will be Deane, Sheffield's leading scorer, who was rejected by Leeds as a teenager.

Similarly, Blackburn Rovers, fifth, and Swindon Town, fourth, who meet at Ewood Park this afternoon, are full of players acquired at

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

First division

Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Chelsea could give a debut to Stuart, aged 19, a graduate of the FA's National football school at Cobham, and with Allister and Bamford (shoulder) highly doubtful, Matthew, captain of the youth team last year, could also start. Palace are without Thorn (knee) so Pemberton moves to right back, and Redman is introduced at right back.

Coventry v QPR

Craig Midleton is poised for his full debut for Coventry, who are almost certainly without Glyn (hamstring), Livingston (influence), Ealing (stomach), Kilcline (knee), and Hall (ankle), though Johnson could prefer Clarke to Falco in attack.

Second division

Leeds v Sheff Utd

Leeds may omit Varadi and Hoddinott to reinforce Davies and Simeone. Brian and Starland face late fitness tests. Wood is doubtful for Sheff; Whitehurst stands by.

Newcastle v Man City

Norwich may prefer Goss to Fox in the midfield. Brightwell and Heath could start for City at the expense of Lake and Allen.

Not'tn Forest v Luton

Forest are expected to be unchanged. Beaumont could be recalled to the Luton defence, while a further two through injury, Johnson is added to the squad. Gates and Heathcote are poised to deputize.

Oxford v Sunderland

Philips and Nogon could replace Penney and Simpson for Oxford. Simeone and Bennett take late fitness tests. For Sunderland: Gates and Heathcote are poised to deputize.

Tottenham v Millwall

Tottenham are without Johnson, and the team is due to be strengthened by the arrival of new manager Steve Coppell.

Wolves slip out of chasing pack

FOUR of the most predatory forwards outside the first division proved uncharacteristically coy at Molineux on Saturday, so much so that the game's only goal was scored by Kevin Scott, the Newcastle United defender.

He met Kevin Brock's deep cross from Ray Ranson's free kick with a firm, looping, far-post header, which leaves Newcastle's only chance of a title drift of both Leeds United and Sheffield United at the top.

With Steve Bull and Andy Mutch of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Mick Quinn and Mark McGhee, their Newcastle counterparts, in muted mood — the quartet boast almost 100 goals between them this season — the goal represented one of only a handful of clear-cut chances.

The hosts spurned the best after only five minutes. Scott stumbled, Bull slipped in, and Burridge could only partly the centre forward's shot as far as Cook, who somehow missed

Jones' Park on New Year's Day.

Indeed, with Kristensen and Scott looking comfortable on the ball at the back, and Aitken enjoying one of his more dynamic games in midfield, the idea of Wolves becoming the first team to rise from the fourth to the first divisions in successive seasons was made to look little more than a statistician's fantasy.

Even if the team was stronger, the ground — two sides of which are shut for safety purposes — and the pitch, which is at such a distance from the main stand, would not allow Wolves to pull anything of position.

Bull has kept it simple to such an extent that, as far as Newcastle manager, Jim Smith, quipped afterward: "Steve who?" Smith had Kristensen, his Danish international defender, to thank for an intelligent marking job on the England World Cup contender, who had dissected Newcastle with three goals in Wolves' 4-1 win at St

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A spirited fightback against Taylor in the world snooker championship

Foulds enjoys a fun run to title

By Steve Acteson

NEAL Foulds held off a spirited fightback by Dennis Taylor to succeed where he had failed last year and reach the second round of the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Foulds's 10-8 victory underlines his recovery this season; his form had declined to such an extent that he had fallen from third to twentieth in the world rankings.

The Ealing player's problems were sparked by temporary ill health and marital problems; as his confidence was eroded, so his game disintegrated. Now, with 12 breaks of 30 or more, it appears as solid as when he was at his peak in winning the BCE International in 1986 and in reaching the world semi-finals in 1987.

"I don't know about the rankings," he said. "It was worrying about that sort of thing that got me struggling in the first place. I would like to think I'm here to win the tournament, not to worry about rankings."

"A year ago, I was frightened to play a shot, but once you realize that you are bad, that your game has gone, you can start to rebuild it. Sometimes it's easier to start from scratch."

This could be my best chance to win the championship. Why not? I'm not going to go round saying I'll win it, because there are so many great players involved, but it's fun again and that's the important thing."

Taylor recovered from 8-0 down to beat Steve Davis on

the final black of the 35th frame in the 1985 final. Having fallen 9-5 behind yesterday, he evoked memories of that greatest of finals by winning the next three frames.

He cleared from the last red to pink to win frame 15; from the second-last red to pink to take the sixteenth, and then won the seventeenth from 46-0 behind with a late break of 60, aided by a nuked final-yellow.

Foulds, however, won the next 68-6 to move into the last 16, and he impressed Taylor, who said: "Neal went through a rocky patch and he must have gone through hell dropping down the rankings, but now he's playing as well as he ever did."

Foulds meets Willie Thorne of Leicester, who scored successive breaks of 43, 48, 30 and 33 to complete a 10-4 victory over Tony Drago.

Doug Mountjoy, the 1988 United Kingdom champion from Wales, also had to strive mightily before taking his place in the second round, a 10-8 winner over the first-season professional, Brady Goffan, from Canada.

Goffan had made breaks of 79 and 72 to lead 54 overnight, but then lost 55-54, 57-55, 61-60, 62-62, 63-63, 68-68, 69-69, 70-70, 71-71, 72-72, 73-73, 74-74, 75-75, 76-76, 77-77, 78-78, 79-79, 80-80, 81-81, 82-82, 83-83, 84-84, 85-85, 86-86, 87-87, 88-88, 89-89, 90-90, 91-91, 92-92, 93-93, 94-94, 95-95, 96-96, 97-97, 98-98, 99-99, 100-100, 101-101, 102-102, 103-103, 104-104, 105-105, 106-106, 107-107, 108-108, 109-109, 110-110, 111-111, 112-112, 113-113, 114-114, 115-115, 116-116, 117-117, 118-118, 119-119, 120-120, 121-121, 122-122, 123-123, 124-124, 125-125, 126-126, 127-127, 128-128, 129-129, 130-130, 131-131, 132-132, 133-133, 134-134, 135-135, 136-136, 137-137, 138-138, 139-139, 140-140, 141-141, 142-142, 143-143, 144-144, 145-145, 146-146, 147-147, 148-148, 149-149, 150-150, 151-151, 152-152, 153-153, 154-154, 155-155, 156-156, 157-157, 158-158, 159-159, 160-160, 161-161, 162-162, 163-163, 164-164, 165-165, 166-166, 167-167, 168-168, 169-169, 170-170, 171-171, 172-172, 173-173, 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SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 16 1990

Richards's captaincy may be over

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Antigua

VIV Richards has never been easily or willingly judged by the standards of others, but his dereliction of duty on Saturday as unforgivable as anything a team captain can do. Indirectly, his press box spat may transpire to be his resignation speech as captain of West Indies.

Members of the West Indies board held informal talks on the issue yesterday, having received a report from the team manager, Clive Lloyd. They will defer any verdict until this final Test match is over and even then it may amount to no more than a reprimand and a fine. Disquiet in high places, however, is profound, and it will no longer be any surprise if the new captain is in place when West Indies next take the field.

Publicly, West Indian administrators have maintained support for Richards as his record of misdemeanours has grown. Privately, they have been increasingly embarrassed as the behaviour of their captain has progressed from unstatesmanlike to unprofessional and now, in absenting himself from the field to harangue a journalist,

totally unacceptable.

They will not concern themselves overmuch about the diplomatic niceties of Richards threatening a British newspaper writer, James Lawton, of the *Daily Express*. This private dispute became legitimate public only when Richards pursued it at the expense of his primary duty as captain, leading his team on to the field.

Neither his own players nor the team management knew where he was. Desmond Haynes was obliged to take over. High above, in the overcrowded press box, Richards saw the game about to resume without him and proceeded with his tirade.

"I'm in a very angry mood right now," Richards said. "Anyone who gets in my way should be careful. No one knows how much I have been hurt."

Are these the words of a man fit to lead the world champions of cricket? A growing number of influential people think not.

Lawton had written that Richards threatened to "whack" him. Unusual, paranoid, though not unique in relations between professional sportsmen and the Press, it was a further expression of the uncontrolled fury which has char-

acterised Richards' recent behaviour.

Previous offences will inevitably be taken into account. In each of his past two series, Richards has been disciplined. In February of last year, an Australian umpire's report, relating to incidents involving Richards and Malcolm Marshall, led to both players being fined. Then, in April, his histrionic reaction to being given out against India, in Kingston, provoked a bottle-throwing riot which interrupted the Test. Richards received a suspended fine and a reprimand.

In his sublime career, this series against England has been one of his least distinguished. In fact, despite the reversal in fortunes which has avoided an unthinkable defeat, little has gone right for him.

During the first Test defeat in Kingston, his leadership was apparently affected by on-going internal rifts. In Guyana, during the abandoned second Test, he outraged locals with his remarks about a West Indies team of "African descent". He also suffered a recurrence of haemorrhoids and could not play in Trinidad, perhaps fortunately. The Asian population there was so incensed by his comments that many of them

openly supported England. In Barbados, he was accused of intimidating an umpire by his new, manic routine of proclaiming a dismissal. And now this.

It is all heavy with irony, for this is his 11th Test, carrying him past his predecessor, Lloyd, as the most capped West Indian. He began the game needing only 44 runs to overtake Gary Sobers as the highest-scoring West Indian in Test history. It is taking place in his native Antigua, an island more famous for his banting than for its tourist beaches. It should have been a celebration of a remarkable cricket; it is turning into a wake for another wayward superstar.

West Indies are not scheduled to play again until November. Whatever action is taken here in the coming days, I believe Richards will be replaced as captain before then. The greatest of all the ironies is that his successor is likely to be his Antiguan apprentice, Richie Richardson, who has indicated he can not only command respect but also conduct himself in a consistent manner.

Faldo hopes to put troubles behind him

From a Special Correspondent, Hilton Head Island

NICK Faldo teed off in the final round of the MCI Heritage Classic here yesterday aware that he needed to improve his putting if he wanted to win his second successive American tournament.

The Masters champion had struggled on Harbour Town's tiny greens during the third round, but still managed to compile a one-under-par round of 70 which left him equal with Greg Norman and Steve Jones in second place, just two shots behind the leader, Payne Stewart.

"I had a tough time on the greens today," Faldo said on Saturday. "I had problems reading some of them, and when I did get the line right the putts just didn't drop. Hopefully I'm saving some up for tomorrow."

Faldo was paired for the final round with his arch-rival, Norman. Barely two months have passed since they staged an epic battle in the Australian Masters on Melbourne's Huntingdale course. Norman emerged victorious by two strokes on that occasion after they went head-to-head for the final two rounds.

Faldo was extremely disappointed to be outplayed on that occasion, and the memory of it was doubtless in his mind as he prepared for yesterday's round.

This time, however, both Faldo and Norman had to remember that they were only part of the plot. Stewart, after all, is no slouch. The US PGA champion won this event last year, and was beaten in a play-off by Tom Kite on the same course in the Nabisco championship in October.

Stewart (1984), Faldo (1984) and Norman (1988) have all won this event, while

More golf, page 32

Millwall poised to appoint Rioch

By Dennis Signy

BRUCE Rioch, the strict former manager of Middlesbrough and Torquay United football clubs, is set to take over at Millwall after the game against Tottenham Hotspur at The Den today.

Millwall, whose defeat at Derby on Saturday meant relegation after two years in the first division, plan to announce the appointments of Rioch and Ian McNeill, the former manager of Shrewsbury Town and Wigan Athletic, and assistant at Chelsea. Both were at the Baseball Ground watching Millwall in their 2-0 defeat.

The appointments will end Bob Pearson's reign of nine games without a win. Pearson and his assistant and reserve team manager, Frank Sibley, took over 24 hours after John Docherty and Frank McIntosh were dismissed in mid-February.

Pearson and Sibley, who has been coaching the team, will be in charge for today's game, but they are victims of a sequence of only two draws and seven defeats since they took over. Pearson, who sold Tony Cascarino to Aston Villa for £1.5 million and signed Malcolm Allen from Norwich City for £400,000 and Mick McCarthy from Olympique Lyons, is expected to revert to scouting.

O'Leary stable after fatal crash

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE condition of Sean O'Leary, the Wasps wing, aged 20, who worked as a waiter in an Italian restaurant in Soho, was the Wasps' leading try scorer this season with 17. His opportunities in the first XV were limited by the presence of two internationals, Mark Bailey and Simon Smith, but he was rated a player of considerable promise.

The two other people in the vehicle, which police believe was being driven by O'Leary, were Michael Adeyemi, a wing, who was severely shaken, and Martin Brooks, a recently-retired prop forward, who suffered a broken leg. The game against Waterloo on Saturday afternoon and today's encounter with New Brighton were both called off.

O'Leary, from Plymouth, was a student at Cambridge University before continuing his medical studies at St Mary's Hospital and hit a lamp-post. No other vehicle was involved.

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More rugby, page 26



Under threat: Richards yesterday

England's gloom unrelied

From Alan Lee

EVERYONE'S gloomiest prognosis for the series led to a day such as this — Antigua in April, with England being systematically extinguished by the rampant West Indians. Everyone could say "I told you so" but for the perversity of so much that preceded it.

Even by claiming three wickets in nine balls shortly before tea yesterday, England were making up only a modicum of lost ground. West Indies were ahead without a wicket down, and more than 100 on with six wickets intact.

Suddenly, this weekend, England have looked frail, forlorn, and regrettably familiar. They have batted without judgement, bowled without discipline and been led without expertise or inspiration. There are two days to come but, to all intents, England have already been wiped out, their heady control and fresh-faced challenge of the early Tests a misty memory.

From the misguided moment in which Allan Lamb, the acting captain, chose to bat first, shredding all the evidence to the contrary, England have looked a team resigned to the thoroughly unjust fate of losing this series. Their first innings total of 260 was hopelessly inadequate. Another 100 would arguably still have been too few, for this is now a blissful bunting pitch, as it was always destined to become.

To negotiate an escape route demanded bowling which adhered rigidly to the basics of sustained accuracy and captaincy which supported the bowlers and anticipated the batsman. On a



Spring in Antigua: A toiling Capel reflects England's despair as all around him Greenidge and Haynes continue to run amok

melancholy Saturday afternoon, they fell embarrassingly short of such demands in the face of high-quality bating.

It proceeded in much the same one-sided fashion yesterday. Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes dictating the terms so thoroughly that the old joke about bowling for run-out seemed apt.

And so it proved to be, for the opening stand was worth 298, a new West Indian record against all-comers, when Greenidge was spectacularly run out as he ambled a second run.

This is Greenidge's human

dread Test, and he was determined to decorate it. When 15 he became only the fourth West Indian, after Sobers, Lloyd and Richards, to aggregate 7,000 Test runs. Soon, he was hoisting Capel over long-on for six, sumptuously pulling and driving anything loose.

There is no margin for error when bowling on a pitch as true as this and if the profligacy of Malcolm and Capel was sadly to be expected it was surprising and disappointing that Small fell so erratically beneath the high standards he has set on this tour. DeFreitas, on Saturday, was alone among the four in maintaining a measure of control.

A captain's lot is not a happy one when his bowlers are so wayward and the batting so forthright, but Lamb's field placings were baffling. Two slips remained in place with the partnership past 200, but the areas in which most of the runs were scored were never blocked.

The two centuries were recorded in the closing overs of Saturday's play, and Greenidge and Haynes continued on their way before another curiously half-fall ground yesterday morning.

England bowled much better than on Saturday, which

was not in itself difficult, but without immediate rewards. Small, summoned after an hour, saw his first ball of the day hooked for six by Greenidge, and his figures were rapidly heading towards the unwelcome century.

The previous West Indies first-wicket record was 295, also by Greenidge and Haynes and also on this ground, against India in 1983. The crowd, well-informed by their transistors, if not their memories, cheered as a single created a new record.

Greenidge and Haynes exchanged dead-pas, mutual recognition of a flawless job.

Doubtless, they saw greater records on the horizon until, in taking that second run to five leg, they were divided. Small saw Greenidge dawdling and, from 70 yards, hit the bowler's stump. A chanceless innings of 6½ hours had been ended by one moment of complacency.

The new ball became due immediately after lunch and provided England with more moral victories than in the entire innings to date. It did not, however, provide a wicket until its fifteenth over when Richardson, batting on Saturday, had it taken off him by a ball from the stump. Enter Rich-

ard, not in the mood to daily. One push for a single and he was facing Malcolm. The memory of his assault on the fast bowler in Barbados spurred him and he slogged awkwardly at his first delivery, the ball looped apologetically to mid-off and the captain's sad match continued.

Perhaps the answer is both.

West Indies are a side in decline: they have slid from Unbelievably Superb to Very Good Indeed. Further signs of an end of an era are to be seen in the increasing mal behaviour of their captain, Vivian Richards: a man who is both a priceless asset and a real embarrassment.

As West Indies ponder the merits of rebuilding, England are already in the process of reconstruction. They do so without the nearest English equivalent to Richards: Ian Botham, who has achieved more in terms of both cricket and embarrassment than seems possible for one man.

Watching England bat was like old times. Five batsmen got in and then got out; this shows that the technique was fine but the self-belief was in poor shape. The England bowlers followed a poor batting performance with worse bowling: that is the way that the team dynamics of this odd game tend to operate. The reverse happened to West Indies: a strong bowling

England won toss

ENGLAND

First Innings

W/Lamb c Hooper b Ambrose

A.J.Stewart c Richards b Welsh

R.J.Bailey c Dujon b Bishop

A.J.Lamb c Richards b Ambrose

R.H.Smith lbw b Welsh

N.Williams c Dujon b Bishop

D.J.Capel c Haynes b Bishop

P.D.Russell c Dujon b Bishop

G.Bailey c Dujon b Bishop

D.E.Malcolm not out

Extras (0 5 11 11, nb 15)

Total (91.1 overs) 260

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-101, 3-143, 4-167, 5-167, 6-195, 7-212, 8-242, 9-250.

BOWLING: Bishop 23.1-5-84-5; Ambrose 29.6-7-79-2 (nb 4); Welsh 21.4-5-51-3 (nb 5); Baptiste 13.4-5-0 (nb 5).

WEST INDIES

First Innings

C.G.Greenidge not out

W.Lamb not out

R.B.Richardson not out

Extras (1 wkt) 356

Total (7 wkt) 356

* V.A.Richards, C.L.Hooper, A.L.Logie, P.L.Dujon, E.A.E.Baptiste, C.E.L.Ambrose, I.R.Bishop, C.A.Welsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-298.

BOWLING: D.Archer and A.Westley.

Umpires D.Archer and A.Westley.

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That England were within a few showers of taking a 2-0 lead cannot be true: it must be the result of a mass deception by the media, a complex plot to promote the sale of satellite dishes.

However, even the West Indies are conceding that Eng-

COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?

